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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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CONTENTS.	
ECCLESIASTICAL:—	
Dissent Established in Spite of Itself	397
The Anti-Maynooth Agitation—Scottish Ecclesiastical Assemblies—Miscellaneous	397
CORRESPONDENCE:—	
The History of the Regium Donum	399
The Whigs and Religious Freedom	399
COMPLETE SUFFRAGE	400
FOREIGN NEWS:—	
America—Spain—Miscellany	400
METROPOLITAN.....	401
PROVINCIAL	401
IRELAND	402
The Repeal Demonstration	402
POSTSCRIPT.....	
POLITICAL ARTICLES:—	403
Summary	404
Why so Bold?	404
ADVERTISEMENTS.....	

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS:	
The Tooth of Buddha ..	405
Fire Escapes	405
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT:—	
Condition of the labouring classes—Insolvency law—Ministers money Privileges—Academical institutions—Miscellaneous—House of Lords—Maynooth Endowment bill—Post-office Espionage	405
EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.....	
Christian Baptism, by J. H. Godwin	410
LITERATURE:—	
RELIGIOUS	410
The Baptist Union	410
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS	
TRADE AND COMMERCE ..	411

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

DISSENT ESTABLISHED IN SPITE OF ITSELF.

THE present government is rapidly pushing into development its novel policy of getting by giving. Greedy of patronage and power, and herein a fitting representative of a multiplying aristocracy, it thrusts its favours upon all classes of religionists. Irish Roman Catholics have been tempted, by small pay, to forego large demands. British Dissenters are destined to have the next turn, and, as usual where they are concerned, they are to be bought cheap, and without the formality of asking their consent. They have been somewhat more earnest of late, than they once were, in protesting **against all state support of religion**, on the ground of its constituting a fair basis upon which to rest a claim to state interference. Government will do no violence to their opinions by proffering a pecuniary bribe. Such a course would instantly prick their suspicions into activity. But Dissent may be virtually established, notwithstanding. To find a pretence broad enough to include the object without specifying it—to obtain, under the cover of legal protection, such a tenacious hold upon the ecclesiastical property of Nonconformists as will give efficient power to dictate terms—to get possession of their trusts, their meeting-houses, burial grounds, and such like, and to place them all under the management of commissioners, appointed by the Crown, and from whose decisions there shall be no appeal—this is, certainly, as ingenious a method of booking Nonconformity for a one-sided alliance with Cæsar, as the wit of man, or of Lyndhurst, could devise. The state will thus become administrator-general of Dissenting temporalities—the self-constituted bailiff of their numerous petty estates—the irresponsible trustee of their vested property—lord of the conventicle as well as of the church.

On Thursday, the 22nd of May, the very evening after the Maynooth Endowment bill had passed through its last stage in the House of Commons, a bill intituled "Charitable Trusts bill"—ominous designation!—on the motion of the Lord Chancellor, was read a second time in the House of Lords, and referred to a select committee. The attention of our readers was called to some of the principal features of this insidious measure by a correspondent. The information, however, contained in his letter may be properly recapitulated. The bill vests in a board of commissioners, to be nominated by the government for the time being, absolute control over all charities having incomes not exceeding £50 a year. These commissioners are empowered to require yearly accounts, to inspect all account books and vouchers, to allow or disallow the expenditure, to examine all trustees, agents, or servants, on oath, to fine the refractory and expel them, to take possession of deeds and documents, to receive surrenders of any trust property, to take and administer the funds at their own discretion, and to divert to other uses property specifically applicable to purposes directed by the donors. Now, all religious trusts come under the general denomination of charities; and, consequently, this bill absolutely makes over to the state, to be dealt with as in its wisdom or

caprice it shall see fit, a vast proportion of the property consecrated by the voluntary efforts of Nonconformists to the maintenance of religious worship amongst them.

The action of this measure, if ever it is suffered to become law, may be easily foreseen. The trustees of Dissenting chapels, those especially of the poorer sort, will come under the direct superintendence of government officials, who, of course, will be state-churchmen to a man. Modes of vexatious interference are numerous and various enough to hook, in some way or other, all who prove themselves obnoxious. A large class of men professing Dissent, and having influence in their respective spheres, will thus be brought within reach of magisterial rewards and punishments. To those who know aught of human nature, the deadening influence of such an arrangement will be apparent at a glance. The whole class of trustees will, by the operation of this simple device, be speedily detached from all active agitation. A thousand annoying inquiries may follow closely upon the heels of one overt act for the separation of church and state. Plausible pretensions will never be wanting, where the administrators of a trust are earnest against evil, to make their office too hot for them, to drive them forth, or, if needs be, to disgust them into resignation, and to pamper the self-importance of truckling minions by appointing them as successors. The petty power given by the trusteeship of a building, or an endowment, will be an object of ambition to some groveling spirits amongst us—and to hold that power directly from the hands of government, will elevate them to a *status* which they could never have commanded by personal qualifications. Subservient tools of the commissioners, and tyrants over Dissenting ministers, they will degenerate in a few years into an unpaid but odious police, having authority to intermeddle with the liberties of every congregation of Nonconformists in the empire.

We have, before now, recorded our objections, deliberately formed, to all bequests for religious purposes—we seriously question the policy of all religious trusts. Events appear to be working out the proof of the position which we maintained on the exclusive ground of principle. But, be this as it may, we cannot stand by and witness this contemplated act of wholesale spoliation—for, intrinsically, it is nothing less—without raising a warning cry to those Dissenters whose timidity invites perpetually renewed aggressions.

We ask them, then, whether they are not weary of the repeated encroachments of the legislature? Do they, by abstaining from a resolute and manly assertion of their own principles, purchase the removal of one practical grievance in ten years? and where they succeed, do not a dozen, at least, spring up in its place? Are they content to be ever kept on the watch against the artifices of men in power—resolving, memorialising, petitioning, spending valuable time and energy, and money too, in repelling assaults; and, when they have hardly wound up one agitation, driven by some new measure upon another? This Charitable Trusts bill is, in good sooth, a more deadly aim at the life of voluntaryism, than either the Factories Education or the Maynooth Endowment bills. But what is to be done? Are we never to lay aside the machinery of temporary conflict with the government? Never, we venture to predict, until Dissenters, as a body, assume the attitude of a determined but peaceful aggression upon all state-churchism—never, whilst there is any hope of wearying out their patience by a war of details! Providence warns them, year after year, that they must not, shall not, recline in quiet upon such privileges as they have. And surely, if a contest cannot be avoided, it is the part of wisdom to choose as the object of it truth rather than safety. From beneath the dark shadow of this oppressive bill, we take leave to reiterate the counsel we proffered to Dissenters three years back, and at the same time to record our unfeigned gratitude that, to a partial extent, it has been acted upon.

There is a certain class of truths, the continued existence of which in the world depends upon the vigorous adoption of the aggressive system. Where they are flatly opposed to this world's wisdom—where the prevailing maxims, customs, modes of thought, and habits of society, are against them—where all the attractions, the respectabilities, and the honours of life lie quite beyond the range of

their influence—inaction is a sure presage of not distant destruction. Whilst they remain stationary, the weeds around them grow apace. The moment they cease to gain upon error, error gains upon them. Their safety is in attack. Their very nature precludes the possibility of their growing into notice; they must battle themselves into it. Their progress, unlike that of the falsehoods to which they are opposed, is never spontaneous. In mere defence they are seldom successful; from invasion they never return without a triumph. Substantially, and in their integrity, they can make way only through the door of conscience; and that door never flies open of itself. Either they must pursue men, or men will be sure to pursue them; and the party who is on the defensive is always at a disadvantage."

THE ANTI-MAYNOOTH AGITATION.

THE CENTRAL ANTI-MAYNOOTH COMMITTEE have called an aggregate meeting of Protestants for this day, in Exeter Hall, in order to adopt a memorial to the Queen, "implored her Majesty to withhold her royal assent from the Maynooth Endowment Bill, until her Majesty shall, by a dissolution of Parliament, have given to her loyal people the opportunity of pronouncing their deliberate judgment upon such a momentous change in the fundamental principles of the British constitution." They have also issued an address calling upon their friends throughout the country, to pursue a like course. The principles on which the committee act, are clearly developed in both these documents. They are exclusively Protestant; that is to say, they go the whole length of Protestant ascendancy. The circular begins with a condemnation of the bill, as involving a "permanent connexion between the State and Popery." The House of Commons is reproached with having thereby consented to withdraw the name of England from the list of "nations protesting against Rome." Should the bill become law, it is urged, England as well as the other European powers would then be in the situation of "conniving at Popery;" and every nerve must be strained "to avert this consummation." The House of Lords are warned, that, unless they reject the measure, they will, after a dissolution of Parliament, be probably brought "into painful collision with a Protestant House of Commons"—as if the Catholic Relief bill had never passed; and the Spiritual Peers are informed of the "expectations (?) which are suspended on their fidelity to the cause of Protestant truth." It is broadly affirmed, that the bill in question "changes the British constitution;"—as if change were new to the ever-fluctuating thing which goes by that name. Finally, "the Protestants" are called upon to "rally around the ark of Divine Truth." The tone of the proposed memorial is in perfect harmony with this pre-eminently Protestant circular. The Memorialists are invited to remind the Queen, that the bill is "for the support and propagation of doctrines and practices which we firmly believe to be, what your Majesty has solemnly declared them to be, 'superstitious and idolatrous.' And, gravest in importance, though not last in order, those who adopt the memorial will convey this remarkable assurance to the Queen: "We gratefully revert to the encouraging declaration of your Majesty, on your happy accession to the Crown, that your Majesty 'would make it your unceasing study to maintain the reformed religion as by law established.'"

A deputation of clergymen waited upon his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, yesterday morning, by appointment, and presented to him an address, signed by 358 of the clergy of the diocese of London, entreating him to oppose the Maynooth Endowment bill in the House of Lords. His Grace received the deputation and the address with marked expressions of respect.

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The subjoined address to resident members of the senate of the university of Cambridge, in favour of the proposed grant to Maynooth college, which has been called forth by the one presented last week, expressing a repugnance to that measure, was, on Wednesday morning, presented to the representatives for that university. The address is signed by residents only, and among them, by eight professors and eighteen principal tutors of colleges, the remainder of the seventy-eight names appended, consisting almost entirely of fellows and officers of the different colleges and of the university:

"To the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, M.P., and the Hon. C. Ewan Law, M.P.:—The undersigned, resident members of the senate of the university of Cambridge, desire to intimate to you, its representatives in parliament, that the proposed grant to Maynooth college is viewed by them with no feelings either of apprehension or repugnance, and that they deprecate most strongly the agitation now in progress against it."

MEETING AT AYLESBURY.—On Monday evening last (says the *Aylesbury News*), a public meeting of the Aylesbury Religious Freedom Society was held in our county hall, to protest against the proposed grant to Maynooth. It was numerously and respectfully attended. J. Lee, Esq., LL.D., of Hartwell, took the chair, and opened the proceedings by avowing the object of the meeting to be to oppose the proposed endowment of Maynooth, not upon any sectarian or "No Popery" ground, but upon the broad principle of opposition to all state interference with religion, and to all compulsory taxes for the support of religion. The meeting had been called by some of the benevolent and respectable inhabitants of the town, and two visitors from London had been invited to attend on the occasion, and to deliver their sentiments on the subject in all its bearings. The principal speakers were the following ministers:—Messrs Marsh of Missenden, W. Foster of Highgate, Burnet of Camberwell, Doxey of Thame, W. J. Gates, and W. Bestall; and Messrs J. C. Olive and Gibbs. The resolutions, which were opposed to all endowments, were unanimously adopted, and petitions to the House of Lords and the Queen founded on them.

MEETING OF PROTESTANT DISSENTERS.—At Bradford, on Monday evening, a public meeting was held in Sion Chapel, for the purpose of explaining the grounds on which Protestant Dissenters oppose the government grant to Maynooth. The chapel was well filled, there being a number of ladies present. George Osborn, Esq., having been voted to the chair, and opened the proceedings, Mr Walter Scott, President of Airedale College, made an energetic and powerful appeal against all state endowments. He then moved the first resolution, which was seconded by Mr Jonathan Glyde, but both these gentlemen avowed that they did not take their stand against the grant to Maynooth because it was given to Roman Catholics. Mr Thomas Pottenger alluded to the contemptuous manner in which the petitioners against the grant had been treated, and said in reference to a future election, that his vote should not be given to any Maynooth man, nor any man who supported the principle of church and state connection. He might be disfranchised by that act, and probably would be so; but henceforth, so long as his name was Thomas Pottenger, he never would give his vote to any man who supported the principle of church endowments. The meeting was then addressed by Messrs J. G. Miall, J. Clowes, James Aworth, ministers, Jno. Rawson, Esq., and Mr H. Dowson, minister—who recommended that the House of Lords should be inundated with petitions, and he pledged himself that if he had a vote to give at the next election, it should be withheld from any man who supported this or any similar grant.

THE AGITATION IN IRELAND.—A central anti-Maynooth committee has been formed in Dublin, to agitate the sister island. To-day a conference is to be held in Dublin, consisting of deputations from the country, representing dioceses, presbyteries, parishes, congregations, Protestant associations, and other bodies and places, the object of which is to make known the state of Protestant feeling, as well as what has been done in the locality or body represented by them as to meetings, petitions, &c. To-morrow it is proposed to hold a great public meeting. The *Banner of Ulster* contains the following:—A public meeting will be held in Belfast this [Friday] evening, in opposition to the Maynooth endowment, at which a deputation from the Anti-Maynooth Conference in London will attend. Sir Culling E. Smith had come over to Dublin in the beginning of last week, expecting that the proposed Conference should have been held in that city that week. Finding, however, on his arrival, that this meeting is not to take place till this week, he resolved, in company with another member of the deputation, to visit Belfast, and such other places in the north as might be accessible during the intervening period. At a meeting of the evangelical ministers of all denominations in Belfast, held on Thursday, he and Mr Blackburn were introduced by the Rev. W. B. Kirkpatrick, a member of the Dublin committee, who had accompanied them to the north of Ireland. It was resolved that attendance on the Conference in Dublin should be urged both upon the clergy and laity throughout the province, and that every means should be employed by which to advance the objects of the movement. At a full meeting of Presbyterian ministers and elders held last week, in Belfast, two representatives were commissioned to be present at the Dublin Conference; and the Episcopal clergy of Belfast have also appointed an influential deputation. The same journal further says:—"The petition to the House of Lords, from this town and neighbourhood, against the Maynooth Endowment bill, was forwarded on Saturday last to Lord Roden, for presentation. It was signed by 13,201 individuals, of whom three were D.L.'s and J.P.'s, two were J.P.'s, twenty-eight were clergymen of the established church, and twenty were Presbyterian ministers. The petition from the bishop and clergy of this diocese was also forwarded on Saturday evening; the signatures to which, exclusive of the bishops, amounted to one hundred and forty-seven."

THE MAYNOOTH MINISTRY.—The Maynooth administration have succeeded in obtaining the third reading of their bill in the House of Commons, by a vote of 317 to 184—majority, 133! There was another division on the measure—that of the people, as expressed in their petitions; and it stood thus—for the bill, 60,000; but against it, 1,300,000: majority, 1,240,000! The people decide, by a majority of twenty to one, against the proposal; and their representatives, in its favour, by a vote of nearly two to one.—*Banner of Ulster*.

A FOREIGNER'S VIEW OF THE MAYNOOTH MEASURE.—We do not hesitate to regard the bill which is about to pass into a law as one of the most important events in the history of England. Some few have said, but everybody has perceived, that this endowment is only a preliminary measure. The endowment of a seminary will soon be followed by the endowment of the Catholic clergy. From that moment England may be considered as having adopted the principle of paying different forms of worship. But is the meaning of that principle understood? To salary more than one religion is, in fact, to recognise none. To pay a Catholic clergy while maintaining a Protestant church is to make a profession of indifference. It is to acknowledge indirectly the incompetence of the state to judge of religious truth; in a word, it is to renounce in every way the principle of a national church. We need not wonder that the members of the Anglican church should be alarmed, and have covered the table of the House with their petitions. They comprehended instinctively that it was a question of life or death for the establishment. The bill will pass. The last hour has struck for that ancient system which connects itself with all the recollections of the country. It is fallen. We, who have no great sympathy for state churches, see reason to rejoice at what is happening in England. When the state pays several modes of worship it will soon come to pay none.—*Anti-Jesuit*, published at Lausanne.

SCOTCH ECCLESIASTICAL ASSEMBLIES.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.—The *Witness* reports at great length the proceedings of the General Assembly of the Free church, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last. On the subject of the Maynooth grant, it was agreed to petition the House of Lords, and present a loyal and dutiful address to her Majesty. The appointment of a standing committee on the subject, was likewise suggested. On the subject of the refusal of sites for churches, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"The General Assembly having considered the overtures, and heard Dr Clason and Mr Begg on the subject, deeply sympathising with those of their ministers and people who are suffering under the oppression occasioned by the refusal of sites, and other grievances, and being deeply impressed with the importance of an immediate and decisive effort to obtain relief for those who have thus been called to endure so much hardship and persecution for conscience' sake, resolve to petition both Houses of parliament in regard to these systematic and continued violations of the whole spirit and tenor of that law of toleration which has ever been held to be one of the highest privileges of our free constitution; and also to send a deputation to London, for the purpose of enforcing their petition. Further, the Assembly, with the view of instituting a more thorough investigation into the entire state of the people in the highlands and islands, as well in regard to those grievances by which they are so much oppressed, as in reference to their destitution of the means of grace, and of adopting such measures as, by the blessing of God, may tend to alleviate these evils, are of opinion that it is their duty to hold a meeting of the General Assembly at Inverness, in September next, and remit to a committee to consider in what way this resolution shall be carried into effect."

It was also determined to present a loyal and dutiful address to the Queen on the return of her Majesty's birthday, in proposing which, Mr H. Grey said he had heard it said—he knew not with how much truth—that our gracious Sovereign was better acquainted with their questions as a church, than her Majesty's Prime Minister [hear, hear; and laughter].

And it was pleasing to know, that, by the command of Prince Albert, an account had been

written of the cause and character of the Disruption by a most enlightened foreigner (M. Sydow). He hoped that in this way the subject had been brought before her Majesty's mind.

The *GENERAL ASSEMBLY* of the Residuary Church discussed the subject of Maynooth on Monday week. Three propositions were made. Mr Clark of Inverness moved an address to the Queen, and a petition to the House of Lords, against the increased grant. Dr Bryce proposed a declaration to parliament, that the Assembly would not be responsible for a measure encouraging the dissemination of "pestilent" doctrine. Dr Pirie of Aberdeen moved a declaration, that the Assembly, having considered the overtures against the bill and the doctrines set forth in the confession of faith, "do not feel called upon, by the profession of the said doctrine, to adopt the course recommended in these overtures, and thus to obstruct measures deemed essential by the executive government of the country for the advancement of the best interest of their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen." Dr Bryce's motion was withdrawn; and on a division, Mr Clark's motion was carried, by a majority of 185 to 41. On Tuesday, it was resolved to petition against Mr Rutherford's University Tests bill; and a committee was appointed to watch the progress of the measure. The other proceedings were of no particular interest.

The church at Helston is likely, at length, to be restored to peace and harmony. The bishop and his friend Mr Blunt have given in, and the latter is forthwith to be removed.—*Times*.

CHURCH RATE SEIZURE AT IPSWICH.—The following letter in reference to a distraint on the goods of Mr James Conder, of Ipswich, appeared in the *Suffolk Chronicle* of Saturday:—

SIR—The paragraph in your last week's paper, in which my name is used, demands, I think, a few observations from me. I was distrainted for church rates, under a warrant signed by W. Rodwell, Esq., at the instance of Mr Prentice, one of the churchwardens of St Lawrence parish, by Edward Smith, constable, (Mr Berryman, the auctioneer, acting as appraiser,) for a rate of twenty-two shillings and eightpence. One hundred and thirty-eight pounds of refined sugar were

taken, which cost me £4 6s. 1d.; and the account delivered to me more than a week afterwards was as follows:—

Dr Mr J. Conder, in account with the churchwardens of St Lawrence parish, Cr	£2 4 2
To amount of rate	1 2 8
Magistrates' clerk's fees	0 9 6
Levy	0 3 0
Warrant of distress	0 1 6
Constable	0 2 6
Assistant	0 2 6
Appraiser	0 2 6
	£2 4 2

May 12, 1845. Ed. Smith, constable.

By this, it appears, the goods were sold for the exact amount of costs. But I must say, I very much question whether there has been a *bona fide* sale at all. I find it difficult to persuade myself that there is one tradesman in the town, let him be ever so stiff a churchman, who would condescend to share in the profits of that legalised robbery of which I am the victim.

For many years past I have satisfied myself with making a silent protest against what I deem the exactions of the state church, by passively submitting to distraint; but if her minions are authorised to come and take my goods to any extent they please, it is time that they should be placed under the wholesome check of public opinion. I have therefore given the names of the parties employed, that the odium may rest where it ought.

In my opposition to church rates, I take my stand on my individual right as a Protestant Nonconformist—*the right of private judgment in matters of religion*. I think, also, I am discharging a duty to society in protesting, at whatever cost to myself, against a law which involves the injustice of making one man pay for the religion of another. But I have yet higher ground, which I am the more anxious to refer to, because your contemporary, the *Ipswich Journal*, in a very offensive attack upon a worthy neighbour of mine, has thought fit to indulge in a sneer against what he calls the "obsolete plea of conscience." Now, whatever he may think, there are men in the world who cannot square their consciences by the suggestions of a worldly expediency—and I am not ashamed to avow myself of the number—I cannot with a good conscience voluntarily support an ecclesiastical system which I consider to be based on a fundamental error in its alliance with the state, and which in that, in my apprehension, involve the very essence of Popery.

I have troubled you with these remarks, because, now that public attention is so forcibly directed to the evils of religious establishments by the Maynooth agitation, it is fitting that every Dissenter should bear his part in pointing out the mischiefs which practically result from the present connexion of church and state.

I am, yours truly,

IPSWICH, May 29, 1845. JAMES CONDER.

THE PUDSEY CHURCH RATE.—On Wednesday, the case against Mr Varley, of Stanningley, was again brought forward at Bradford Court-house, for refusing to pay £1 14s. 1d. church-rate. He was summoned on the information of Mr Samuel Field. Mr Richardson, of Leeds, appeared for Mr Varley, and protested against the validity of the rate, and therefore took the matter out of the jurisdiction of the magistrates. He said that Mr Varley was willing to contest the validity of the rate in the ecclesiastical court. The magistrates therefore dismissed the case.

THE CHURCH MILITANT.—We learn from the *Suffolk Chronicle* that on the occasion of Mr Leger, curate of the church of St Mary Tower, reading the prayer for the church militant on Sunday, Mr R. Deck, one of the churchwardens, immediately rose, left his seat, and walked out of the building. He was followed by other persons, including a portion of the military attending the church.

PASTIMES FOR THE CLERGY.—Not a hundred miles from the delightful vicinity of Salcombe Regis a rev. gent., after preaching a sermon to the Friendly Society, was to be seen standing, with hurdle in hand, superintending the rural sports of Whit-Monday, and despatching the young urchins for a prize with the following exhortation—"Go—go—you beggars, if you break your necks the doctor's here to mend them." Afterwards figuring in the capacity of ring keeper, master of the dancing ceremonies, course clearer for the wheel-barrows, and assistant to certain ladies whilst running for a bonnet; and last, though not least, was busily engaged in putting money into a tub of water, for the young 'uns to extract therefrom with their mouths, during which operation one of the competitors was nearly stifled by keeping too long under the water. The whole was finished up with a fight, to the evident satisfaction of that stately personage who adorns the white gown on a Sunday morning, and according to his own account is the only person in the parish suited for the cure of souls.—*Western Times*.

THE RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.—The *Record* gives the following interesting information relative to the progress of the second reformation in Germany:—"The religious movement and separation from the Roman Catholic church which is taking place in Germany, daily acquires greater importance. That the character of this wide-spread excitement is entirely pure in its origin, arising simply from conscientious and spiritual motives, we should wish to be able to state positively. It probably partakes of a mixed character, and without disengagement to the moral integrity of Ronze, its first promoter, we believe his latter associate, Czernski to be a man of greater spirituality of views, and more enlightened in the doctrines of the gospel. Throughout the whole of Germany, from the Gulf of Dantzig to the frontiers of France, churches have been formed at different places with astonishing rapidity, and already exceed the number of forty. A great council has lately been held at Leipzig for

the arrangement and consolidation of this extensive separation from the Romish church, at which deputations from many of the principal places of Germany attended: amongst others, from Breslau, Berlin, Dresden, Magdeburg, Elberfeld, Worms, Wiesbaden, &c. Professor Wigau, of Magdeburg, was elected president of the council, at which the constitution, ceremonies, liturgy, &c., of the new church were discussed and regulated. The municipal council of Berlin, after several deliberations as to what ought to be done with regard to the new church, decided to grant a place for its public worship, and a salary for its minister. Ronge and Czerski, who had repaired thither after the council, preached to a large congregation, and had afterwards a special audience with M. Eichorn, the minister of public worship. A public banquet was prepared for them, and some days afterwards Czerski proceeded to a baptism, at which the Prince Royal of Prussia was present. These circumstances indicate the favourable disposition of the government towards the new church. Before returning to Breslau, Ronge went to Gorlitz, on the frontiers of Saxony, and preached to an audience of four thousand people, thus sowing the seeds of reformation on his route. Adhesions from amongst the Romish clergy continue to multiply; and at Treves, the scene of the pilgrimage to the pretended Robe of Jesus Christ, and the first cause of the secession of Ronge, the Curé Licht, one of the most respectable and distinguished amongst them, lately wrote to his archbishop to announce his abandonment of the church of Rome. He is now become priest of the German church at Unna, in Westphalia. At Breslau, the new communion already numbers six thousand adherents, and amongst them the Curé Theiger, Professor in the University, who is represented as having a very extensive influence amongst the clergy of the country. At Fribourg, M. Schreiber, and ecclesiastic and professor in the University, has publicly notified his adhesion to the new church by the following remarkable letter addressed to his archbishop:—"I have the honour to make known to you my resolution to belong to the German Catholic church. You know that my object has ever been, as a man, as a Christian, as a professor, the pursuit of truth; you will, therefore, regard this step as a proof of my religious conviction." Since this public declaration, sixty families of Fribourg, and four hundred of Mannheim, have joined the new church; and many of the clergy of Baden, who have been pupils of M. Schreiber, have received the declaration of the professor with marked favour. At various places in Silesia, Ulna, Stettin, Francfort-sur-l'Oder, Stuttgart, &c., churches have been formed. That of Dantzig already includes two hundred families. Most of the communions between Elberfeld and Cologne have separated themselves from the Roman communion, and a church has also been formed in the latter city. Some indications of a similar movement are also manifesting themselves in Switzerland, and it is said that in two cantons preparations are making for the formation of a Catholic Helvetic church on the model of that of Breslau. These changes have not been effected without producing some ebullitions of popular opposition at various places, especially at Hildburghausen, Dantzig, and Worms. The Austrian government has also manifested its uneasiness at the extent of the movement. This movement, says the Paris *Constitutionnel* is propagated throughout all Germany, and it is even penetrating into Austria, notwithstanding the precautions taken by the government to arrest its progress. The Austrian journals are forbidden to mention the name of M. Ronge and of his adherents; the police and the censorship aid each other to crush the new doctrine in the bud. The King of Hanover prosecutes it as anti-monarchical, and the King of Bavaria as communist. The German Catholics of Saxony have addressed a protest to the minister of worship, and call on the Saxon government to ask Bavaria for explanations on the measures which she proposes taking; and they defy the Bavarian government to find a trace of communism in their doctrines. In his last discourse Czerski has given his partisan notice to prepare for persecution. It appears, in fact, that Austria intends proposing to the Diet severe measures. In other places, the temporal power has shown itself indulgent. In Prussia, Saxony, and other states of the Germanic confederation, the authorities, without precisely approving of the reforms proposed by M. Ronge, throw no obstacle in the way of their discussion, and the Rongists or Separatists are making rapid progress in Breslau, Leipsic, Berlin, Magdeburg, Hildesheim, Frankfort, Mentz, Offenbach, &c. The German press, in seizing on the question, displays a prodigious activity; and special publications, destined to propagate the new doctrine, are distributed in considerable numbers in every part of Germany.

The *Globe* had a rumour on Tuesday, that the Archbishop of Canterbury died suddenly, that afternoon; a rumour which the *Post* contradicted next morning, "in the most positive manner."

SIR HENRY POTTINGER.—This gallant officer has just received a mark of the esteem in which his services are held by the Chinese authorities, in regard to the treaty lately concluded by him between this country and the Celestial Empire, in the shape of a portrait of the Imperial Commissioner Keying, which has just arrived by a vessel from China, as a present to Sir Henry from that exalted personage.

A deputation of the Birmingham jewelers waited on Prince Albert, on Wednesday, and presented a memorial complaining of the depressed state of their trade. The Prince accepted several articles of exquisite manufacture, presented to him by the deputation.

Correspondence.

HISTORY OF THE IRISH AND ENGLISH REGIUM DONUM.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—The history of "Regium Donum" in Ireland is full of instruction, and will, no doubt, be both curious and interesting to the readers of the *Nonconformist*, particularly at this time, when the subject of all ecclesiastical endowments is so prominently brought before the public.

The first that we hear of this grant was made by Cromwell, about the year 1649, and was then viewed by Presbyterians, not as a bounty, but given in lieu of the tithes, of a portion of which the Synod of Ulster had for some time been in the receipt. The loyalty, however, of Presbyterian writers will not permit them to call that grant a "Regium Donum," nor do they refer to it as the origin of the present endowment. We need not, therefore, inquire why it was given, or when it was taken away.

The present system of "Regium Donum" originated during the reign of Charles the Second, in the year 1672, at the suggestion of Sir Arthur Forbes, afterwards Earl of Granard, and evidently from political considerations. A conspiracy against his Majesty's government in Ireland was at that time discovered, in which many ministers and influential members of the Synod of Ulster were suspected of being implicated. Sir Arthur was despatched to inquire into the matter. He immediately saw the importance of attaching the Presbyterian ministers to the existing government, and suggested to his royal master the propriety of granting them a pension, as the best means of making them subservient to the state. Charles saw through the policy of his wily courtier, and acted accordingly. It happened at that time that there was unappropriated £600 of the revenue of Ireland, and, of course, it pleased his "most religious and gracious" Majesty to place that sum annually in the hands of four eminent ministers of the Synod, to be distributed equally among all the ministers. "By their arrangement, every minister who had been in the country twelve years, that is, since 1660, had an equal proportion of this bounty." When Sir Arthur summoned these ministers to meet him in Dublin, to communicate the pleasing intelligence, he stated that the King, of his "own mere notion," granted this pension, which they received under the significant name of "secret service money." Secret service money indeed! granted, not for their loyalty to the King of Zion, by standing up for his royal prerogative in their "day of trouble, and of rebuke, and of blasphemy," but their attachment to their "then gracious sovereign, Charles the second;" for when these clerical pensioners ceased to perform their "secret service," and, of course, incurred their royal master's displeasure, Charles, towards the close of his career, withdrew the "money."

We hear nothing more of "Regium Donum" till William the Third, of "glorious and immortal memory," ascended the throne. After having arrived in Ireland, and encamped his army at Hillsborough, near Belfast, William was much pleased by the loyalty of the Ulster Presbyterians, and, on the 19th of June, 1700, about ten days before the battle of the Boyne, granted to their ministers £1200 per annum, as "a pension," to be paid out of the port of Belfast. William, in his royal letter, issued from his court at Hillsborough, stated that he gave them this "pension" for their "constant labour to unite the hearts of others in loyalty towards him and his government." The order was addressed to the collector of customs at Belfast. The port was then small, and not able to meet the demand. William, in the meantime, having joined his army in Flanders, the former warrant was canceled under the regency of Mary, and letters patent passed the great seal of Ireland, placing the "pension" on the civil list, to be paid quarterly at the Irish exchequer. This grant was given by Mary in 1691, and renewed again by William in 1699. This "pension," let it be observed, was made merely during the royal pleasure. The ministers had no "vested right" in it, and, consequently, we afterwards find these ministers petitioning Anne for a renewal of the grant, and stating explicitly, that it had "become void by the demise" of her illustrious predecessor. Anne was pleased to comply, and on December 23rd, 1702, issued letters patent, renewing the grant of William. This *Regium Donum* was exclusively enjoyed by the ministers of the Synod of Ulster, and connected them more closely with the government than former grants. The limitation was "that the money should be paid in such proportions, and to such ministers, as the lieutenant deputy or other chief governor or governors, for the time being, shall appoint or approve." At this time there was also a body of English Presbyterians in Ireland, distinct from the Scotch settlers, known as the "Southern Association," and afterwards as the "Synod of Munster;" to the ministers of this synod Anne granted in 1708, through the interest of Doctor Calamy and others, the sum of £800 annually, which was remitted over from London to the Irish treasury, and hence received the name of the "English bounty," forming the endowment of the Synod of Ulster. The grant, i.e. £1200 given by William and Anne to the Synod of Ulster, and the annual sum of £800 given by Anne to the "Southern Association," was renewed by George the First—date unknown—as an acknowledgment for the kind offices of Presbyterian ministers in strengthening the Hanoverian succession. This sum was divided in equal shares between the ministers of the Synod of Ulster, and those of the southern association, or, as it is now called, the Synod of Munster.

The origin of the bounty in England was in the year 1723, and was then given by Sir Robert Walpole, chancellor of the Exchequer, to prevent Protestant Dissenters from urging "a restoration of all their natural and religious privileges." That gentleman, a good judge of human nature, and well acquainted with the boundless power of gold, opened the purse of the state to nine of the most influential ministers, when the great body were about to move forward to seek deliverance from bondage. After this, it was easy to make them believe that that year was the most unfavourable for them to press their object, and that its postponement, instead of retarding, would forward it. The amount given was £500, under this colouring, "Pray receive this for the use and comfort of the widows of Dissenting ministers, till administration can more effectually serve your cause." It was afterwards increased to £850, and to £1,700, per annum. Hence, it has been said, that when an eminent minister of London afterwards complained of the difficulties Dissenters laboured under, a person then high in office,

replied, "It was well known, they received a sum of money from government to silence their complaints, as well as applications; therefore, they should either nobly throw up the grant, or remain in silence! No wonder it has been styled 'Hush money!'"

The next era in the history of *Regium Donum* commenced in the year 1784, when George III., by his letter dated January 7th, augmented the original sum of £1,200 granted to the Synod of Ulster, by £1,000 "to be distributed among such of the Nonconforming ministers as the Lord-lieutenant, or other chief governor or governors for the time being, shall find necessary for his Majesty's service, and the good of the kingdom." The sum of £5,000 was asked and expected on this occasion; but through the influence of a nobleman whom the Presbyterians had opposed in a northern election, only £1,000 was obtained: the sum, however, of £500 was given to the *Seceders*. This is the first mention of this body in connexion with this grant. They had existed for a considerable time before. Their origin is as follows: four ministers seceded from the kirk of Scotland, on account of abuses in doctrine and discipline, and 1733 constituted themselves into an ecclesiastical court, under the designation of "The Associate Presbytery." They rapidly increased till 1747, when an unhappy division took place between them respecting the propriety of taking the burghs oath, imposed by government on those who became candidates for the freedom of certain royal burghs. Those who considered they might take the oath were called burghers, and the others anti-burghers. They were first introduced into Ireland in 1742, and, for the first time, received *Regium Donum* in 1784. At this time the Synod of Ulster was in the receipt of £2,200, the Southern Association of £800, and the *Seceders* of £500. In 1792 an additional grant of £5,000, on nearly the same terms, was obtained, by the powerful influence of Lord Charlemont, and distributed between the Synod of Ulster, the Southern Association, *Seceders*, and the minister of the French church, Dublin.

This brings our history of the *Regium Donum* up to the time of the rebellion in 1798, in which many of the Presbyterians were involved. The government, aware of the importance of securing the influence and co-operation of the ministers, shortly after the rebellion was suppressed, entered into a negotiation with them respecting an increase of *Regium Donum* on certain terms. This negotiation was for some time retarded. At length it was brought to a conclusion in 1803. Government proposed a plan of classification, which was adopted by the Synod of Ulster. The congregations in connexion with the Synod were divided into three classes, according to the number of families composing them, and the amount of stipend paid by them. The richest congregations had the largest share of *Regium Donum*, and the poorest the smallest. The first class ministers received £100; the second, £75; and the third, £50 per annum. In each class there were sixty-one ministers, making, in all, the grant of £14,970 18s. 10d. to the Synod of Ulster alone. In 1809, government proposed similar classification to the *Seceders* of £70, £50, and £40, which, after much hesitation and double-dealing, not very creditable to them as a body of professed Christians, the majority of them finally accepted. This new regulation, respecting the *Regium Donum*, differs from those preceding. In former grants the money was placed in the hands of ministers, and at their disposal; but now this power is taken out of the hands of the ministers, and vested in the government alone. In 1801, when an attempt was made to give the elders a share in the management, government immediately interfered, and decided "that the administration of the fund called *Regium Donum* should remain, as heretofore, under the exclusive direction of the ministers of the Synod of Ulster; but, in 1803, it was placed 'under the exclusive direction' of the government. A congregation may choose their pastor; the presbytery ordain or instal him, as the case may be; but it remains for the government to approve of him and put him in the receipt of *Regium Donum*. He must produce "a certificate from two magistrates," and take the "oath of allegiance;" and, if the Lord-lieutenant approve, he is "pleased to issue the necessary orders, that he may be placed in the receipt of that portion of his Majesty's royal bounty allotted to the minister of said congregation." The pension, when given, is enjoyed by the minister during good behaviour. By gradual augmentations the *Regium Donum* has increased to considerably more than £25,000 per annum. In 1831, a new and important arrangement was made. The various payments out of the civil list have been all canceled, and the gross sum is voted yearly among the Irish miscellaneous estimates. The system of classification has been abolished, and the endowments equalised, each minister, upon his ordination, being entitled to £75 per annum, late Irish currency. In 1840, the Synod of Ulster united with the United Secession Synod, and now form what is called "the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland." The Remonstrant Synod—which separated from the former Synod of Ulster, on account of Unitarianism—and the Synod of Munster are likewise still in the receipt of *Regium Donum*, but the Reformed Synod, known by the name of Covenanters, and the Associate Presbytery, that of the church commonly called Primitive *Seceders*, refuse to accept of it as inconsistent with their principles. The Covenanters, of course, adhere to the "solemn league and covenant" which binds them to "endeavour the extirpation of Popery—prelacy, that is, church government by archbishops, bishops, their chancellors, and commissioners, deans, deans and chapters, archdeacons, and all other ecclesiastical officers depending on that hierarchy—and whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound doctrine;" and considering that the present government is based upon prelacy, they cannot receive any *Regium Donum* at their hands. The Associate Presbytery, on the contrary, reject the royal gift because they "hold that any alliance with, or any dependence upon, the kingdoms of this world, is unworthy of the church of Christ, and a violation of her duty and allegiance to him" as her only King and Head. This Presbytery is the remains of the Synod of the Anti-Burgher Secession church, who "did, in the year 1809, twice unanimously refuse to accept *Regium Donum*, because the terms then, for the first time, demanded by the government were, in the judgment of the said Synod, inconsistent with the great principle of Presbyterianism, that Christ is the only head and king of his church; and more especially inconsistent with the peculiar principles of the Secession church." Notwithstanding all this, the ministers of this synod "did privately accept and draw for the said money," with the exception of the Rev. James Bryce, of Killeieg, who alone nobly refused the royal

bribe, though frequently solicited by the government and his brethren in the ministry to do so; and who, after many years, when the arrears of the *Regium Donum*, which amounted to a large sum, were offered to him, nobly persisted in refusing to become the pensioner of the state. Mr Bryce was not long alone till he was joined by a few others; the Rev. H. M'Intyre, and his eldest son, Doctor Bryce, of Belfast; and, afterwards, the Revs H. Smythe and James Fleming. These five ministers, and seven congregations, formed themselves into what is called the Associate Presbytery. A union is now proposed between this Presbytery and the United Secession church in Scotland, based upon the voluntary principle, which will, no doubt, be completed as soon as practicable. The United Secession church in Scotland, in 1840, extended her missionary operations to Ireland; formed church in Belfast upon the voluntary principle, whose minister is now delivering a course of lectures on the evils of civil establishments in, and state endowments of, religion, of whatever kind. These lectures are delivering at a very seasonable time, and likely to be productive of much good in promoting the cause of voluntaryism.

In conclusion, it needs only an attentive perusal of the foregoing history of *Regium Donum* to manifest the political motives which have actuated those statesmen that have been instrumental in obtaining and augmenting this bounty from time to time. Charles II. gave it as "secret service money;" William III., as "a pension" for political services; Anne, to such as met the approbation of the Lord-lieutenant; George I. continued it in acknowledgment for benefits received; Sir Robert Walpole, as Sir Arthur Forbes, obtained it from his royal master, to stop the mouths of clamorous Dissenters in England who were crying out for "a restoration of all their natural and religious privileges;" George III. gave it to such as were "necessary for his Majesty's service," who acted as, what they have acknowledged they are, "moral police;" and Mr Stanley, to complete the climax, is said to have reluctantly consented to an augmentation of the *Regium Donum* from his anxiety to secure the co-operation of Ulster in carrying his favourite tithe bill. The baneful effects of this grant are seen in Ireland, in enslaved, degraded, oppressed Ireland. An English ecclesiastical hierarchy, and all its vast expenses, with scarcely a million of people connected with it, riveted down upon seven millions of the Irish people, who not only receive no benefit by it, but hold it in the utmost detestation; Popery fast acquiring the ascendancy; Presbytery, consisting of upwards of a million of the people, muzzled with a paltry *Regium Donum*; voluntary churches oppressed and persecuted, and the gospel retarded.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

Maldon, Essex, May 26, 1845. JOHN J. DUNLOP.

THE WHIGS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR.—The articles on Ecclesiastical Affairs, which have appeared from time to time in your valuable paper, have highly delighted me; and the last number so fully and forcibly expresses the opinion which I have for years past been endeavouring to inculcate on my neighbours, that I cannot refrain from writing to thank you.

The strength of Nonconformity lies in democracy. The noble and, with few exceptions, the wealthy, are favourable to state establishments. It is so very much more respectable to profess a religion of which the Queen is the head and patron, that Dissent is at a great discount amongst them. And those who have risen to riches from the middle or lower classes, think to show off their gentility by supporting the church. I might mention, as an instance, the case of a landholder in our neighbourhood, who refused to grant a site for a Dissenting chapel, because it was in sight of one of his country mansions, although the distance therefrom was, in a direct line, about two miles. And this gentleman made a profession of liberal principles!

It is humiliating, as well as astonishing, to think how Dissenters have been trying to propitiate the great, especially those who have pretended to the least liberality. At meetings held awfully for the purpose of forwarding the principles of nonconformity, how often has my Lord Thyn or the Hon. That been voted to the chair, and the Dissenters have had their reward, by his opening the proceedings by stating that though he appeared amongst them then, he was a sincere admirer of the church of England, and devotedly attached to the principle of a state establishment. Can any one in his senses be surprised at the little regard those same lords and honourables pay to Dissenters? The conclusion they come to (and it appears to me a legitimate one) is this—if these people believed in the doctrines they profess, we should not be thought fit (for they know our opinions) to preside over their assemblies. I have often said that rather than be insulted in such a manner by a chairman, I would vote for putting into the chair, if there were no alternative, a man of the lowest occupation, provided that he were a decided Nonconformist.

I am perfectly convinced that the whigs are as great, if not greater, enemies to the true principles of religious, aye, and of civil liberty too, that the tories. Centralisation seems to be their sole aim. Who took from the parishes of England the management of their own affairs, and invested it in the creatures of government, the triumvirate of Somersett house? Who saddled the Dissenters, as well as members of the church, with the support of gaol and workhouse chaplains? Who are the most earnest advocates of a state education? Who are the chief supporters of the grant to Maynooth, and declare that they do so in order to pave the way for another church establishment? Who give utterance to the most bitter sarcasms against the voluntary principle? Who describe it as a popular delusion? The very men whom Dissenters have delighted to honour—the Russells, the Humes, the Macaulays, and the Roebucks, &c.

But I will not trespass further upon your valuable space; my object in writing being to show you that the course you are pursuing meets with the warmest approbation of

Sir, your constant reader,

A COUNTRY DISSENTER.

Wiltshire, May 24th, 1845.

THE SLAVE-TRADE.—The new convention between France and England, for the repression of the slave-trade, was signed yesterday afternoon at the Foreign office, and the ratifications are to be exchanged, we understand, within ten days.—*Times*, Friday.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

Birmingham, June 2, 1845.

The council of the National Complete Suffrage Union, at their meeting here to-day, passed a vote of thanks to the thirty-three members of the House of Commons, who voted in favour of Mr W. S. Crawford's amendment on Lord John Russell's resolutions on the 26th ult.: and also to Messrs Hindley and Williams, who supported the amendment, but were accidentally shut out from the division.

General News.

FOREIGN.

AMERICA.

The Hibernia brings fifteen days' later intelligence from Boston, and confirms the pacific character of former accounts. All apprehensions in connexion with the Oregon question appears to have subsided. While the western press calmly and moderately declare the rights of the United States, the threatened meetings in opposition to "British rapacity" had fallen through; the official organ is emphatically pacific, and assures that the President, so far from desiring to put an end to present negotiation, is anxious that it should go on. We further hear that negotiation has been resumed by the present Secretary of State at the point at which it was closed by the retirement of Mr Calhoun: and now we have repeated on all hands the rumour that a special minister (probably Mr Van Buren) is to be despatched to England. The special mission has been offered by the President to Mr Calhoun and Mr Pilcher, both of whom have declined it; but it is understood that Mr Calhoun will accept a mission with more enlarged powers, authorising the arrangement of a commercial treaty as well as the settlement of the Oregon question.

The *Cincinnati Atlas* states, that about 7,000 emigrants, destined for Oregon and California, had assembled at Independence, Mobile. The Louisiana convention had incorporated in the constitution a provision disfranchising and rendering ineligible for any civil office under the state any person who shall be engaged in a duel.

Advices from Canada are of little importance. The provincial parliament had been further prorogued until the 17th of June. The *Kingston Chronicle* states, upon authority not to be questioned, that Sir Charles Metcalf, on hearing it reported that he contemplated retiring from the government of Canada, replied, "that I have no such intention, and that it is my full determination to retain my present position as long as her Majesty shall require my services."

There is no important intelligence from Mexico. The apprehensions of hostile proceedings against the United States had not subsided. General Almonte had arrived at Vera Cruz; and it is said that Mr Shannon was on his way to the coast to embark for the United States. It was reported that the Mexican Congress were considering a bill to close the ports of that country against all American vessels.

From Texas, we learn that numerous meetings of the friends of the annexation scheme were being held. The President had issued his proclamation convening Congress on Monday, the 16th of June. We learn from the proclamation that the government of the United States had selected the first and second sections of the resolutions (Brown's) as the basis for consummating the proposed union. It was rumoured at the seat of government that communications had been received from General Arista, by way of Corpus Christi and Bexar, conveying assurances that the new government of Mexico is disposed to treat with Texas upon the basis of independence.

SPAIN.

Queen Isabella closed the session of the Cortes, in person, on the 23rd ult. The new constitution was promulgated on the same day. On the 24th, the Queen, the Queen Dowager, and the Infanta Louise, left Madrid that day on their way to Barcelona.

From Paris we learn that Don Carlos has abdicated in favour of his son, the Prince of the Asturias; and that the fact was communicated to King Louis Philippe, by a special envoy, on Monday. Don Carlos accompanied that formal communication by a demand of permission to go whither he will, there being now no reason for continuing him in captivity at Bourges. It is further said, but with less authority, that the Prince of the Asturias had demanded passports from the French Government, to proceed to Spain, as a faithful subject of Queen Isabella. "The abdication of Don Carlos and the pretensions of his son," says the *Times* correspondent, "are calculated, however, to bring about changes and events in that respect, and in others of vast magnitude. One of them will probably, in any case, be the withdrawal for ever of Queen Christina from Spain, but it is really premature and a loss of time to attempt to speculate upon this new phase in Spanish affairs, and upon which you are likely to hear more than upon any other subject for months to come."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

THE RIGHT OF PETITIONING IN GUIANA.—The West India mail brings no news of importance. The only topic we need notice here is the issue of the proceedings respecting the petition of the Rev. E. A. Walbridge, a missionary in British Guiana, for the separation of the church from the state. We stated in a former number, that the Combined Court had referred this petition to the law-officers of the Crown in that colony, for an opinion whether its language was or was not seditious. We now find that both these functionaries concur in the judgment

that it is not so according to Dutch law, but one of them, in opposition to the other, thinks it is so according to English law. And the petition has accordingly been referred to the Secretary of state! It is difficult to speak with gravity of this solemn farce, or to express in any terms fit to be written our sense of the ignorance and infatuation of men who are thus bent on manufacturing indictable offences out of the commonest use of the commonest rights of Englishmen.—*Anti-slavery Reporter*.

It is a positive fact that the natives of the Northwest of India carry the spirit of economy to such a degree of intensity, that ten letters are often sent under one cover, which does not weigh more than the tenth of an ounce. This cover, which often contains all the letters despatched from a town during the day, is, according to the last privilege, conveyed a hundred miles for half an anna, or less than the tenth of a penny each. What is the penny postage to this?—*Allen's Indian Mail*.

POLYNESIA.—In a letter dated the 14th January, 1845, received at Hull from Tahiti, is mentioned the arrival of the "John Williams" three weeks before, all well; and that she had sailed to the westward. The letter adds:—"The French have again hoisted the Protectorate flag, with great rejoicings, but the Queen, and the majority of the natives, will have nothing to do with it, and the French can only keep the island by exterminating the natives."

On the 23rd of July last, the chiefs of Raiatea, Huahine, and Borabora, tendered to Lord GEORGE PAULER the cession of their islands, for his government, that they might be protected from the French. Lord GEORGE declined accepting the cession on the ground that the French claimed the Leeward Islands as well as the others of the Society's Group, as being under their authority.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

A COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL was held on Thursday, for the despatch of business. A communication was read from the authorities of Christ's hospital, decidedly repelling the claim made by the aldermen and common council, that the Lord Mayor should be considered, *ex officio*, president of all the hospitals in the city. The petition was referred to the Christ's hospital committee. The Coal, Corn, and Finance committee presented a report, stating that Sir George Clerk had introduced a bill into parliament to continue the Coal act until July 1862, but he had suggested the discontinuance of the duty of one penny per ton on coal, cinders, and culm; the committee recommended acquiescence in that suggestion; and the report was adopted. The parliamentary committee presented a report against the Charitable Trusts bill; objecting to the great power of the proposed commission, and recommending a petition for exemption of the city charities from the operation of the bill. An amendment to petition against the bill altogether was adopted.

THE NEXT SHERIFFS.—Mr Alderman Challis, being the senior alderman who has not served the office of sheriff, and R. W. Kennard, Esq., of Thames street, the great iron merchant, are to be put in nomination for the shrievalty of London on Midsummer-day next.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW BAZAAR.—This splendid manifestation of the power, influence, and resources of the League, was brought to a final close at ten o'clock on Tuesday night. The number of visitors during the day was 10,364; and the number during the seventeen days the bazaar was open, upwards of 100,000. During that time no accident occurred, and, with one exception, there was no attempt to commit a crime. Besides the money taken at the doors, goods to the amount of £20,000 were contributed as free gifts; and the clear profit will probably do much more than make up the £100,000 fund. About 400 ladies, many of them far from home, rendered their services gratuitously. The goods unsold will be removed to the Free trade hall, Manchester, where the bazaar will be continued, and be opened gratuitously to the public. "Wednesday night," says the *Times*, "witnessed a final muster of the friends of free trade, before the dispersion of its manifold attractions at the call of the more customary, if not more 'legitimate,' occupants of Covent Garden theatre—the scene-painter, the musician, and ballet-master. In a word, the free-traders held a sort of *soirée*, or 'final promenade,' as it was called on the tickets, in the arena which has during the last few weeks been the scene of their great display. The proceedings of the League Bazaar, which began with business, ended in festivity; and many hundreds—perhaps thousands—of persons assembled on Wednesday evening in the theatre, as a sort of final triumph of mutual congratulation on the success of this last gigantic scheme of the enemies of the corn laws. The chief occupation of the guests was in walking about, listening to the music, or gazing at the chiefs of the League, who were scattered amongst the gay crowd, including Dr Bowring, Col. Thompson, Mr Moore—not to omit Mr Fox, Dr Price, and some other well-known gentlemen. All this occupied from about seven until nearly eleven, when some dancing ensued. Altogether the promenade went off very well, and proved an appropriate *finale* to this great experiment of the Anti-corn-law League—an experiment which it is said has attracted to the theatre nearly 10,000 persons daily since the opening of the bazaar."

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—Mendelssohn's "St Paul" was performed on Monday evening in Exeter Hall, by desire of the Queen, who honoured the society with her presence. The Hall was crowded to excess. Her Majesty, with Prince Albert, and attended by a numerous suite, entered the gallery near the orchestra prepared for their reception a

few minutes past seven o'clock, and were received by the audience with every demonstration of loyalty. "God Save the Queen" was performed by the immense orchestra and chorus, with the utmost grandeur of effect. The royal party remained till the conclusion of the oratorio.

Two hundred and eighty-two books have been given to the Guardian of the Greenwich Union for the pauper-library recently established. It is gratifying to perceive the excellent moral effect the trial of this scheme has had upon the inmates. Good order and good humour proceed from the practice; and after the day's work is concluded, groups may be seen listening to some one reading, while others are employed in reading themselves. Since the establishment of the library, the general conduct of the inmates has much improved.

LONDON CENTRAL RAILWAY TERMINUS.—The want of a great central terminus in the heart of London for all the lines which now terminate in the outskirts, has been so long felt, that the wonder is that no feasible attempt has been made to supply it. The present proposal is to convert a part of the area to be inclosed by the government scheme of embanking the Thames between Waterloo and Hungerford bridges, and on the city side immediately in front of the Adelphi Terrace, and to convert the whole of that into a grand railway station for the Birmingham, Southampton, Brighton, and South-Eastern lines. By the proposed plan a capital of £500,000 would be adequate to the whole expense, and a double line of railway will be carried across the river parallel to the Hungerford Bridge, and in such a manner as to render a part of that structure available to this purpose. Mr Locke and Mr Page, the government engineers of the Thames embankment, are joint engineers to the scheme; Messrs Birch and Dalrymple and W. Chapman are the solicitors; and it is calculated that a toll of 2d. each from the passengers would produce a revenue of £14,000 per annum.—*Railway Chronicle.*

THE LATE FIRE AT RAGGETT'S HOTEL.—The inquest on the bodies of the unfortunate sufferers by this destructive fire took place on Wednesday. Four bodies had been found—those of Mr Raggett, his daughter, Mrs Jones, and a female unknown, supposed to be Mrs Round, but so burnt that it could not be identified. There was no doubt that another person had perished, namely, Mrs Barnes, a chambermaid; but the body had not been found, the ruins not having yet been thoroughly searched. Miss King, of Bristol, who was lodging at the hotel, described the first discovery of the fire, which broke out in her bedchamber—

"I was in my bedroom, on the first floor, between twelve and one o'clock on Tuesday morning. I went into an adjoining room to obtain some water to make liquorice-tea, and before returning to my bed-room I heard a crackling noise. I immediately went towards my room to ascertain whence it proceeded; when I perceived a large mass of flames issuing as it were from my bed-room door and from over the door." She did not leave her candle in the bed-room when she went out for the water. She could not say how the fire originated. Lord Huntingdon described his own escape, and the rescue of his infant: his eyebrows were burnt, and so was his child's hair. He thought the fire-escape was employed in a very bungling manner. Mr F. W. Raggett said that Mrs Round occupied sitting-room and two bed-rooms on the second floor. There was only one door out into the passage from all these three rooms; and one was obliged to obtain entrance to the two inner rooms, to go through the outer room. He thought the fire-escape had been mismanaged, and believed the men who had charge of it were drunk. His family had lost every farthing they possessed by the fire. He had no doubt that the fire originated in Miss King's room. The candle must have come in contact with the curtains. He did not think that a spark would have done it, as the curtains were of quilted dimity. The inquest was adjourned till Friday, to allow of search being made for the body of the missing chambermaid. The inquest was resumed on Friday afternoon. During the day, another body had been found in the ruins. It was that of a female; but so disfigured by burning, that recognition was impossible. Mr Davis, a surgeon, who had known Mrs Round from her childhood, and had attended her professionally, was of opinion that this was not her body, the bones being larger and the jaw-bone and teeth dissimilar: he thought one of the bodies found on Tuesday was Mrs Round's. Other evidence favoured the supposition that the remains were those of Mrs Barnes, the chambermaid. Strong evidence was given as to the drunkenness and incapacity of the men in charge of the fire-escape. He told Mr Wilborn of Albemarle street, who interfered to hasten his movements, that the fire-escape was locked, though, in fact, it only fastened with a spring; he threatened to knock Mr Wilborn down, and actually tried to prevent his assisting. A delay of four minutes was thus occasioned; and at least Miss Raggett's life might have been saved by greater promptitude and efficiency. Mr Lowe, secretary to the Society for the Protection of Life from Fire, said that the man would be discharged. The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Accidental death," accompanied by the following presentment—

"The jury request that the coroner will write to Sir James Graham, her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the purpose of calling his special attention to the evidence given at this inquest, in order that the government may take measures for preventing in future such an awful sacrifice of human life." The building is insured to the extent of £2,000, but not one farthing of Mr Raggett's property. The walls were partially shored-up on Thursday, and the firemen began the search of the ruins. They found a toilet-box containing jewels of some value, belonging to the Countess of Huntingdon; the jewels were

but slightly injured. They also found a large chest of plate, the property of Mr King; and upon this a very extraordinary proceeding took place: Mr Abbott, the owner of the building, interfered to prevent the plate's being delivered to Mr King, declaring that Mr Raggett had been indebted to him for four years' rent, and he should seize what property he found in the ruins. The landlord, however, did not prevent Lord Huntingdon and the relatives of Mrs Round from taking away the articles belonging to them which had been found; but, with the exception of the jewels, these were of trifling value.—We are sorry to hear that the late Mr Raggett has left three sons and three unmarried daughters totally unprovided for. A subscription on their behalf has been opened in various banking establishments in London.

ANOTHER FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—On Sunday morning, shortly after one o'clock, a very destructive fire, attended with loss of life, broke out in the lower part of the spacious range of premises, in the occupancy of Messrs Robertson and Satchell, hatters, situate at No. 158, Fenchurch street, adjoining the Fenchurch chambers. The premises in question situate on the northern side of Fenchurch street, two doors from the eastern corner of Lime street. The house in which the outbreak took place had no means of egress at the rear, the back terminating in a wall of solid masonry. The fire was first perceived by Mrs Satchell, who, rising in bed half smothered, exclaimed to her husband, "Good God! the house is on fire." They were then on the third floor. He immediately roused himself, but was not so collected as Mrs Satchell, who instantly urged him to escape by the flight of steps leading to the roof. For this purpose they jumped out of bed, and, without staying a moment to put on their clothes, the poor man seized the little girl, their daughter, a fine child about four years old, while his wife snatched up the infant which was sleeping beside her. In the midst of the dense smoke which filled the room, Mr Satchell conceived that his wife had ascended the staircase leading to the leads, upon reaching which he saw a woman lying at the top of the flight perfectly insensible. He hurriedly caught her up in his arms, and the wicket of the adjoining trapdoor being open, fled with his load precipitately down stairs, almost exhausted, where he was received by Mr Tongue, the acting police inspector, who took them over the way to the house of Messrs Harris, Duplex, and Harris, surgeons, by whom they were most humanely taken in. When Mr Satchell was taken in he was quite frantic, and apparently unconscious, but shortly afterwards discovered his mistake, in having rescued his servant girl, his wife and child being left in the burning building. The dead bodies of the mother and child were subsequently found on a portion of the floor which was left standing. The poor creature was discovered in a sitting position, near to the jamb by the side of the fireplace, not far from the front window, so that it is most probable, that when she found it was impossible to get up the stairs leading to the trapdoor, which her husband had ascended, from the heat of the flames and the increasing fury of the fire, she attempted to reach the window in front, but being overpowered had fallen backwards, and thus perished! This supposition is corroborated by some persons, who state that they saw her attempting to raise the sash. By the prompt measures of the firemen the flames were at length subdued, and most fortunately, for in the cellars of the building large vats containing several hundred gallons of turpentine were stored, the ignition of which must have led to consequences most fearful to contemplate. By dint of great perseverance the flames were eventually subdued, but not before the houses of Messrs Satchell and Robertson were gutted, and the property contained therein totally consumed. With this, and the extensive damage by fire and water to the adjoining houses and the valuable stock in them, the property lost must amount to several thousand pounds. It is always exceedingly painful, says the *Chronicle*, in cases of so lamentable a description as the present, to attach blame to any one; but the unfortunate occurrence of yesterday morning casts a sad reflection on the city authorities, from the corporation down to the parish functionaries and the police. There were no fire escapes provided, the parish engines were useless, and the police not sufficiently instructed as to saving human life. It is but justice to the firemen, however, to state that, but for their exertions, the calamity would have been greatly extended.

On Monday night, a destructive fire broke out at 11, Mountstreet, in the Westminster road. After half an hour's hard labour, the firemen obtained the mastery over the conflagration; but not before it had traveled throughout the premises, destroying in its progress the whole of the valuable stock in trade, furniture, and plate. As to the origin of the fire, nothing that can be depended upon could be learned. The inmates of the house had barely time to escape in their night-clothes.

EXECUTION OF CONNOR.—On Monday morning this wretched man fell a sacrifice to the vengeance of his country's broken laws, in front of the Old Bailey. He made a written confession of his guilt half an hour previous to his execution, which he delivered to the chaplain. It was as follows:—

"I fully acknowledge that I was guilty of the murder of which I was charged, and I beg pardon of God and man for the horrid crime I thereby committed. I beg the prayers of all good Christians for my poor soul, and I hope that all Catholic young men will take warning from my sad fate, not to neglect the duties their holy religion prescribes."

"While I adhered to its pious precepts and practices, I was virtuous and was happy. When I neglected them, I fell into bad company, plunged into vice, stained my soul with murder, and am now about to forfeit my life on the scaffold."

"I resign myself to the shameful death as a penalty I

have justly deserved by my crimes, and only hope that Almighty God will, in His boundless mercy, and through the merits of Christ, accept it and my repentance, however late, as some small atonement for my many offences."

"(Signed) JOSEPH CONNOR."

The prisoner's actual name was Dennis Joseph Connor; but, as he had been tried and convicted in the name of Joseph Connor, he so signed his confession. "Perhaps," says the *Chronicle*, "no culprit, who ever suffered an ignominious death for such a crime, ever deported himself in a manner so entirely becoming the awful situation in which he stood." On appearing on the scaffold, he was received by the crowd with clapping of hands! After hanging the usual time, the body was cut down, and was buried within the prison walls.

PROVINCIAL.

A JUST LANDLORD.—The Duke of Devonshire has earned much gratitude for himself amongst his tenantry at Baldersby, Marton le Moor, and Rainton. At his audit-day, held at Ripon on the 15th inst., which was the last previous to the estates passing into the hands of the purchasers, G. Hudson, Esq., of York, and Earl de Grey, the estate, which is occupied by a spirited tenantry, was reported, by his Grace's agents entrusted with the sale of the same, to be in such a high state of cultivation, and the improvements in building, draining, &c., to be of that permanent and extensive description, to merit their high encomiums, and, in their opinion, to have greatly enhanced the value of the estates. His Grace at once resolved not to appropriate to his own use any of the capital which had been embarked upon his property by the tenantry, but directed that full compensation (amounting to a year's rent) should be made to all who had in any way contributed to enhance the value of his estate.

EDUCATION IN WALES.—The Dissenters of the Principality are proposing to carry out the important recommendations relative to education adopted by the late conference at Llandover. The inhabitants of Llanelli have taken the lead, and at a meeting of members of the Wesleyan, Calvinist, Methodist, Baptist, and Independent denominations, held a few days since, the following resolution was adopted:—

That a school be forthwith established at Llanelli, on the following basis: viz. The education shall be of a religious character, so far as that the master and mistress shall be religious persons; the school to commence and conclude by singing and prayer; the Sacred Scriptures to be taught therein; every denominational topic, however, to be strictly excluded. 2. That every child attending the school shall be required to go to some place of worship; and be expected also to go to some Sunday-school on the Lord's day. 3. That the ministers of the different bodies be requested to visit the school alternately, and to address the children on any subject they may think fit, strictly excepting, however, every denominational topic. 4. That the school shall be under the management of a committee consisting of an equal number of persons selected from each of the denominations.

These fundamental principles met with the approval of the meeting, and several additional resolutions were very heartily moved and seconded by Messrs Avery, Spencer, Watkins, Hughes, Rees, Bowen, Jacobs, Broooim, Jones, and Roberts, ministers.

In consequence of the Newcastle coal monopoly having been broken up, a reduction in the price has taken place there—about 2s. 3d. on the best Wallsend coal, and from 9d. to 1s. 3d. on the second rate quality.

The price of iron, which had risen so high, is now declining. During the last month, it has fallen in the Blaenavon district forty-five shillings a ton, and in South Staffordshire forty shillings.

GRAND CATHOLIC PROCESSION AND FESTIVAL IN NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday week Nottingham presented one of the most novel spectacles which the annals of this country afford. This was none other than the celebration of the festival Corpus Christi by the Catholic body, in their new and splendid edifice of Saint Barnabas, with all the pomp and display which the highest prosperity of the Catholic ascendancy records. The intense interest it excited, the thronging crowds who hurried to view the spectacle, the various forms and ceremonies adopted, the immense expense which had been incurred, the decoration, the gorgeous dresses, the splendid banners, the magnificent trimmings of the altar, and the unequalled pomp of the pageant in any religious celebration of late, produced a very strong sensation.—*Post.*

CHOLERA AT SHEFFIELD.—No fresh case of this disease has occurred at the Sheffield workhouse. In fact, it is much doubted whether any of the late cases were of Asiatic cholera. The impression prevails, that the story was made the most of, perhaps in order to cause "a sensation," or to cause an inquiry for "doctors."—*Leeds Times.*

THE WINDSOR GAME-LAW VICTIM.—Dean, the shoemaker of East Hampstead, who was convicted at Windsor petty sessions last week of poaching on Prince Albert's game, and committed for two months, has been released; "a gentleman from London" having paid the fine, £10 11s. The *Times* assumed that the gentleman had authority from an "exalted quarter"; but a letter from Mr John Collett, the member for Athlone, in the paper of Saturday states that he was the "quarter," and the "gentleman from London" his servant. He wrote to Dean that he paid the fine because he disapproved of the game laws, and "deeply commiserated an act of tyranny and injustice inflicted on a poor man." Mr Voules, one of the magistrates, complains to the *Times* that there were inaccuracies in the first report. Dean, an old offender, made the first overtures to Milley, a young and inexperienced gamekeeper: neither Prince Albert nor Sir John Walsh knew

anything of the matter; and the magistrates did not refuse Dean time to pay the fine.

A STEAMER ON FIRE.—The steamer London, which left Dundee for London on Wednesday evening at seven o'clock (four hours after the time advertised), was discovered, on Friday morning, about two o'clock, when off the coast of Norfolk, to be on fire. The combustion originated, spontaneously, among the coals stowed away behind the boiler. They were of a sort tried on this occasion for the first time by the Dundee Company; and, although a good deal impregnated with sulphur, were recommended to the managers by their price, being 6d. a ton cheaper than those formerly in use. The fire spread rapidly, and soon extended across the entire breadth of the vessel, between the funnel and the quarter deck. The deck was considerably injured, and the bulkheads which separated the coals from the cabin-berths, were also partially on fire. Notwithstanding the threatening aspect of the flames for some time, they were at length, by the activity and vigilance of Captain Ewing and his crew, subdued and kept under. In case of the worst, the captain ordered the boats to be got ready; but although there was an unusually small number of passengers, they could not have safely contained more than two-thirds of the persons on board. The insufficiency of boats in steamers generally, both as regards number and strength, has often been commented on, but we fear that little improvement will be made in this respect until we shall have a few more frightful disasters to record.

Two Southampton lads have been committed for trial, charged with the manslaughter of a little boy, whom they treated like another Mazeppa; tying him to a donkey on Netley Common, and then starting the animal off at full speed: the boy fell off his seat and was dragged a considerable distance, so that he was killed.

SUPPOSED MURDER.—Mr Hoyle, a medical practitioner of Heighington, near Lincoln, has disappeared in a very mysterious manner; and it is surmised that he has been murdered, and his body thrown into the river Witham. His pony was found fastened to a gate near the river; one of the rider's gloves being thrust under the saddle, and the stirrups tied or knotted together and thrown over on one side. Mr Hoyle's hat had been picked up in the stream; but dragging has not brought up the body. Gillman, a person of bad character, has been arrested at Boston, on suspicion of having been engaged in destroying Mr Hoyle. Gillman and Footit, a man who employs the former in navigating vessels on the river, have admitted that they found some articles belonging to the missing gentleman in a field, together with his horse, which they tied to the gate; but their conduct after this discovery was very suspicious.—The *Stamford Mercury*, of Friday, mentions the following circumstance as a more likely cause of Mr Hoyle's disappearance:—Mr Hoyle some years ago compounded with his creditors, and it is well known that for some years he has been in bad circumstances, and that of late pecuniary difficulties and ill prospects have been gathering more around him. It is supposed that, afraid to face the consequences of a second failure, he has given "leg-bail" to his creditors, under circumstances which might distract public attention, and enable him to get clear off before the truth could be ascertained.

THE LATE DUEL AT GOSPORT.—Mr Seton, the gentleman who was wounded in the duel at Gosport, lies still in a precarious state, although considerably relieved by an operation performed by Mr Liston. Mrs Seton and Mrs Hawkey publish obscure but contradictory statements as to the cause of the duel, which seems, at all events, to turn on something said about Mrs Hawkey. The Colonel-commandant of the Portsmouth division of Royal Marines, in his weekly return to the Admiralty, sent up the names of Lieutenants Hawkey and Pym as absent without leave.

IRELAND.

THE REPEAL DEMONSTRATION IN DUBLIN.

The most extraordinary popular demonstration ever, perhaps, witnessed, was that which took place on Friday, in Dublin, to commemorate the anniversary of the imprisonment of Mr O'Connell and the other defendants in the state prosecutions. The procession through the streets of the metropolis might be considered as a "monster meeting," far surpassing any of those assemblages which preceded the state trials. The trades of Dublin, with the rural population for twenty miles around, marched in that procession, with flags and music, and with all the order and precision of well-drilled troops. There could not have been less than a quarter of a million of persons in the streets, but not a single accident occurred. There was not a drunken man to be seen amongst the multitude. There was not the slightest breach of peace, and yet neither soldier nor mounted policeman appeared. Such was the scene presented on Friday, in the Irish metropolis, in the seat of the executive government, the object being to commemorate the victory of Mr O'Connell over the Court of Queen's Bench. The *Dublin Evening Post* truly remarks:—

It was a political movement and one of great significance and effect. It was the anniversary of an illegal judgment, pronounced by the first authorities in Ireland, and of an unlawful sentence, as the House of Lords has called upon us to describe it. It was the manifestation of a triumph over the Court of Queen's Bench, over the miserable and crest-fallen prosecutors of the crown, and over the government of the country. We believe that such a scene as that exhibited in Dublin yesterday was never witnessed in any city in the civilised world; and we imagine the cause which produced it stands alone, itself the great exemplar. But the proceedings at the levee in the Rotunda formed the most remarkable portion of the manifestation. There the deputations from the principal cities

and towns of the provinces, headed by the mayors and other members of the municipalities, attended to deliver their addresses to Mr O'Connell, congratulating him upon his victory, hailing him as the chosen leader of the people, and calling upon him to pursue his agitation for repeal, which had already forced concessions, but which no extent of concession short of local legislation could put down.

"I witnessed those proceedings at the Rotunda," says the correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, "and I can answer for it that there is no exaggeration in the descriptions given of them. The deputations there assembled afforded decided evidence of the vast improvement amongst the middle classes produced by education during the last twenty years. They have improved in education, in wealth, in intelligence; but it is manifest that discontent with the present system of British rule in Ireland has increased with at least equal steadiness. The assemblage in the Rotunda was a 'monster meeting' of the middle classes of Ireland, represented by deputations, and they adopted and signed a declaration, pledging themselves, in terms the most emphatic, to seek unceasingly for a repeal of the legislative union, without any possible drawback or qualification. It was, I think, impossible to witness those proceedings, without arriving at the conviction that Sir R. Peel has given a tremendous impetus to the repeal movement in Ireland. Hereafter the grand difficulty with any British minister will be to grapple with repeal."

The procession started from the Richmond Penitentiary about 10 o'clock, and a more formidable and better arranged display of physical force, says the *Times* reporter, than that which this day paraded the Irish metropolis, and under the very nose of the executive government, could not be well conceived. I should think it fully equalled, if it did not excel, the celebrated Donnybrook demonstration, which took place during the fever-height of the repeal agitation in 1843. The array of cavalry was certainly very inferior, but this was more than compensated for by the excess of the infantry contingent. There were besides more bands of military music, a greater number of banners and devices, and more regularity observed in keeping the line, &c. Some faint idea of the length of the *cortege* may be learned when it is known that the head of the procession, consisting of an advanced guard of horsemen, entered Parliament street precisely at a quarter to 2 o'clock, and it was 10 minutes to 3 o'clock before the rear body made its appearance; a space of just one hour and five minutes intervening, the men all the while keeping the quick step, and with only one or two brief interruptions in the line of march. The procession stopped at the Rotunda, in the interior of which the scene was of a very imposing character. The Pillar Room, which adjoins the Round Room, was appropriated to the reception of the members of the various deputations, and the '82 club. There were about 100 members of the club present in uniform, and a great number of metropolitan and provincial town councillors, and town commissioners, in their official custumes. There were wanting only the accessories of waving plumes, and clashing swords and spurs, to make the scene bear a close resemblance to a veritable court gathering. About 1,500 deputies were present, and an immense number of ladies. The most significant and important proceedings of the day took place before Mr O'Connell arrived. When the various deputations were assembled in the Rotunda—Mr Maurice O'Connell, M.P., in the chair—Mr Smith O'Brien, M.P., moved the adoption of the following pledge and resolution:—

"We, the undersigned, being convinced that good government and wise legislation can be permanently secured to the Irish people only through the instrumentality of an Irish legislature, do hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to our country and to each other, that we will never desist from seeking the repeal of the legislative union with England, by all peaceable, moral, and constitutional means, until a parliament be restored to Ireland."

"Resolved—That in commemorating this first anniversary of the 30th of May, we deem it our duty to record a solemn pledge that corruption shall not seduce, nor deceit entice, nor intimidation deter us, from seeking to attain for Ireland the blessings of self-government through a national legislature, and we recommend that the following pledge be adopted and signed."

"Though," he said, "such a declaration be needless, as far as regards ourselves, it is not so as far as regards the world in general (hear, hear). For we cannot conceal it from ourselves that there are many who believe that the part we are acting is a great national farce, and that this nation can be enjoined, seduced, and intimidated from the pursuit of those great objects upon which we have set our hearts." (Cries of "Never, never.") Mr HENRY GRATTAN, M.P., seconded the resolution.

The CHAIRMAN, in the most solemn manner, said—Let those who are in favour of this motion, and wish to adopt the pledge, hold up their hands. (The whole assembly raised up their hands, slowly and impressively repeating these words—"We are pledged—pledged for ever.") Immediately after the repetition of these words, a loud and long-continued cheer rang through the entire room.) CHAIRMAN: I need not put the negative [cries of "No"]. They are carried unanimously [cheers]. A resolution was then passed, that the pledge should be presented by Mr Smith O'Brien to Mr O'Connell and his late fellow prisoners.

At half-past twelve o'clock Mr O'Connell arrived at the Rotunda, and was received by the crowd assembled at the entrance-gate with loud cheers and cries of "Long life to your Irish Majesty." The hon. gentleman, who wore the '82 Club uniform, soon afterwards entered the Round Room, and ascended the dais, accompanied by Messrs Barrett, Duffey, John O'Connell, M.P., T. M. Ray, and Doctor Gray, and attended by the members of the

'82 Club. The address from the Dublin Corporation was first presented. The address of the Repeal Association was next read by Mr S. O'Brien, who handed to Mr O'Connell the "pledge" to persevere in the struggle for Repeal, by whom it was signed, amid loud and prolonged cheering. Mr H. Grattan, and a numerous deputation, presented the address of the '82 Club. Addresses were then presented by the mayors and corporations of Limerick, Waterford, Kilkenny, Clonmel, Sligo, and Drogheda; from the town commissioners of Galway and Cashel; from the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Claremorris, Tuam, Wexford, and Ennis; from the town commissioners of Callan, Kells, &c. There were in all about 60 deputations in attendance. The addresses, which were read at full length, were nearly uniform in style and matter, containing the most exaggerated praises of Mr O'Connell and his martyrs; the repeal version of the proceedings connected with the state trial, and earnest prayers for the long life and happiness of the Liberator. The deputations from the towns generally consisted of the mayor and some members of the corporation, but in all cases they were composed of most respectable persons, and very generally professional gentlemen. The presentation of addresses did not terminate until 3 o'clock, when Mr O'CONNELL came forward to the front of the platform (accompanied by the other traversers in the late state prosecutions) to address the assemblage, and was received with loud cheers. The character of his address may be judged of from the following extracts:—

It would be difficult to find words to convey the sensations that pour on my mind, when I behold the strange transition from the 30th of May, 1844, to the 30th of May, 1845 [cheers]. But there is a higher and another thought—there is a duty to be performed that requires no eloquence to describe its nature; it lies in one single sentence—it is before me—"Ireland shall be a nation" [cheers]! As well might they imagine, that by stopping the motion of the clock that is over that motto, they could arrest the progress of time, as suppose they could retard the mighty movement of Irish determination, or control that native love of country that now blazes forth triumphantly throughout Ireland—which gives life and vitality to her efforts for freedom, and will secure in the broad noon-day of morality, peace, tranquillity and determination, the restoration of her native parliament [loud cheers]. * * *

Was I not right in saying that a strange change had taken place? Signs of conciliation have been exhibited. We are now told that concession to Ireland has not found its limits—that more is to be given to us; and we are also gravely assured that the government, so far from being hostile, is amicably disposed towards us, and anxious to act fairly towards Ireland [hear and laughter]. Is there a man amongst you who believes the sincerity of those professions? [cries of "No, no."] No, to be sure there is not. Throw a glance back upon the past year. What has occurred to warrant us in believing in the sincerity of those declarations? Has the government punished the instruments of that illegal prosecution? No; on the contrary, have not they in contemplation to place them on the benches of justice, and make them judges of the land for the rest of their lives [hear, hear]? What signs of repentance have the government exhibited?—what acts of restitution have they performed? They cannot give me back three months of my life, during which they deprived me of liberty. They cannot give me back my hundred days. But I will make them a present of them. I will forgive them if they give my country her rights. They may make what professions they please—the heart of England is not changed [hear, hear]. Her ministry have yielded, to be sure, but why have they done so? Is it because we became more tranquil or more tractable? Is it because we gave up our agitation, and, falling on our knees, implored mercy? No; but because we stood up manfully for our rights, and would not endure the thought of compromise [hear, hear, hear]. We violated no law—we broke through no act of parliament—we kept within the limits of the constitution—we conducted ourselves peaceably but firmly—manfully but resolutely, and therefore it is that we are respected. If we are not treated with contempt and derision, whom have we to thank for it? Whom but ourselves [hear, hear]? The voice of Ireland has been raised from one end to the other—from the Giant's Causeway to Cape Clear—from Connemara to the Hill of Howth, and the echoes of that voice have been heard in the cabinet. It has been stated that repeal agitation is sinking and dying. I think this day affords a very tolerable specimen of the truth of that report of expiration [cheers and laughter].

Mr O'Connell sat down amid the most rapturous demonstrations of applause. A deputation from the trades of Dublin was then introduced, and Mr Brady read an "Address of the congregated trades of the city of Dublin to Daniel O'Connell, Esq., M.P." The addresses being all presented, the levee broke up, and the visitors began to retire. The procession was then reformed, proceeding to Merrion square. It was at this time (writes the *Times* correspondent) nearly five o'clock, and the scene along the line of march was particularly imposing, not merely from the immense masses of the people congregated together, but from the faultless regularity and decorum of the organized tens of thousands forming the procession. This is no exaggeration in point of numbers, for I have been assured by a gentleman who was a spectator at several of the vaunted "monster meetings," that the most formidable of them that he had witnessed was but as units to hundreds in comparison with this metropolitan gathering. The *cortege* reached its final destination in Merrion square, about half-past five o'clock, when Mr O'Connell alighted from his carriage, entered his house, and addressed the assembly from the balcony. At half-past five o'clock the procession and the mob withdrew, and before six o'clock the square was comparatively tranquil. During the evening several of the repeal and temperance bands walked about the city, playing various airs, and followed by numbers of children shouting for O'Connell and repeal.

Accounts were received in Dublin on Saturday

morning, of bonfires, illuminations, and other modes of rejoicing, in various parts of the South, to commemorate the anniversary of the imprisonment of Mr O'Connell and the other defendants on the state trials.

DISMISSAL OF MR A. O'DRISCOLL.—The Lord Chancellor has again superseded Mr Alexander O'Driscoll, the Cork magistrate, whose conduct has so often been the subject of discussion in parliament. It was a monstrous act to restore him to the commission after his first dismissal.

REPRESENTATION OF BELFAST.—A rumour has reached this town, to the effect that Mr Emerson Tennent has been appointed Governor-general of Ceylon. Presuming upon the correctness of this report, we have heard that no less than five candidates for the representation of Belfast are already in the field. We cannot exactly vouch for the accuracy of our information, but the parties named are Lord John Chichester, brother to the present Marquis of Donegal; Mr Shafto Adair, son of Sir Robert Adair, the proprietor of the Ballymena estate; Mr George Dunbar, Mr Robert James Tennent, and Mr W. G. Johnson. We have heard it stated, in other quarters, that neither of the two gentlemen last named will offer themselves to the notice of the constituency. Mr Shafto Adair and Mr Tennent are both of liberal politics. Lord John Chichester has addressed the electors, and avows his determination, if elected, "to stand by the Protestant principles and institutions of the country, without reference or sacrifice to the views of any ministry." We should think that Maynooth will be the testing question on this occasion. We trust that the electors will not enter precipitately into any pledges, in the prospect of an election, as some candidate, more acceptable than any yet named, may, in the meantime, be induced to come forward.—*Banner of Ulster.*

NEW COLLEGES.—**MR WYSE, M.P.**—The *Cork Reporter*, of Monday, gives an authorised contradiction to the rumours which prevailed in that city, respecting the appointment of Mr Wyse to the presidency of the Munster college.

CONFlict BETWEEN THE POLICE AND PEASANTRY.—The following extract from a letter dated, "Mohill, Saturday evening," describes a fearful conflict between the "Molly Maguires" and the police, in the most disturbed district of the county of Leitrim.

"A party of police, having gone in search of some delinquents, observed a number of men ('Molly Maguires') armed in a field. The constable in command sent into the station for a reinforcement, and on their arrival the police rushed forward. The 'Molly Maguires' fired at the police, who returned the fire, shooting one man through the heart, and wounding others. The 'Molly Maguires' fled, and the police gave chase, but the country people got out of their reach. The police subsequently returned to the field, and were taking away the body of the man shot, for the purpose of identification, when the country people, greatly reinforced, came up and attacked them, rescued the body of their fallen companion, and put the police to flight. The second onslaught, I am told, was desperate. The police, who were greatly inferior in number, found it impossible to cope with their assailants. Mr Vevers, the stipendiary magistrate, was pelted with stones, when he interposed. This lamentable affair has produced a deep sensation and much alarm in this part of the county of Leitrim."

VISIT OF HER MAJESTY TO GERMANY.—We are enabled to announce, upon authority on which we place every reliance, that her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert contemplate a visit to Germany during the ensuing summer. We understand that the court will leave England early in August, and that, as at present arranged, her Majesty and the Prince Consort will pay a visit of six days' duration to their royal relatives at Gotha, and a further six days at Coburg. Active preparations are already in progress for the reception of the royal party, both at the palace and at the theatre of Gotha. We believe the visit of her Majesty and Prince Albert to Paris (if it has ever been contemplated) will not take place during the present summer.—*Morning Post.*

The negotiations between the Spanish government and the court of Rome have failed.

TEMPERANCE TOAST IN YANKEELAND.—The following toast was given at a temperance dinner:—"The revolutionary army and the cold water army; the one drove the red coats from the land, the other the red noses."

Postscript.
Wednesday, June 4th.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The debate on the second reading of the Maynooth bill was resumed last night, and again adjourned—a thing almost unexampled in the recent experience of the Upper House. Before its commencement, a large mass of petitions was, as usual, presented, including 73 by the Marquis of Bredalbane, with upwards of 7,000 signatures, from various denominations of Dissenters, against all state endowments of religion. The speakers during the evening were, the Earl of HARDWICKE, the Earl of CARNARVON, the Marquis of NORMANBY, the Archbishop of DUBLIN, Lord de Ros, and Lord BROUGHAM, in support of the bill; the Earl of WINCHILSEA, and the Bishop of EXETER, against it. The Earl of WINCHILSEA reprobated the measure as the most deadly blow ever aimed at Protestantism—our national Christianity—the foundation of our long-cherished civil and religious liberties, and the true source of England's greatness; and warned the House that the passing of the measure, in the excited state of Protestant feeling, must produce an outbreak, not in Ireland, but in this country. The opposition of the Bishop of Exeter was of a very mild character. At present, he said, the Maynooth priests were educated as

spiritual despots, and they became furious agitators, unfit to be the guides of the people. Instead of one great monastic establishment, he wished, in addition to the bill in another place, for founding three academical institutions in Ireland, there were a fourth, or rather one branch in connexion with each of those institutions, in which a liberal education might be given to Roman Catholic priests, with a proper system of discipline, consistent with fair opportunities of mixing with the gentry and other educated youth of the country. They would thus create in Ireland a body of priests such as they had in this country. The Archbishop of DUBLIN avowed himself the advocate of expediency in this matter, and he denied that expediency and duty were at variance with each other. He believed the bill, though it might not satisfy agitators, would do much good in Ireland. He claimed no jurisdiction over the Roman Catholics, although he had spoken and written against their errors; his duty was to drive out erroneous and strange opinions in his own church. Lord BROUGHAM was, of course, warm in his praise of the measure. He admitted the errors of the Romish church, and the evil tendencies politically of the policy engrafted on the Catholic system. Intolerance was not confined to the Romish church, or popes or priests. *Just in proportion as any church was armed with secular power by an alliance with the state was its tendency to persecute other sects.* Even the Anglican church had its missionary service. The Dissenters were the loudest in their opposition to this bill; but had the Independents and the Calvinists no persecuting doctrines? It was no question of consciences, but of policy and expediency. The debate was then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The first business in the House of Commons last night was of rather a novel character. Mr HUME actually proposed the granting of a pension to Sir H. Pottinger, in reward for his eminent public services! Lord SANDON seconded the motion, and Sir J. C. HOBHOUSE warmly eulogised the distinguished ability and noble disinterestedness in the cause of his country manifested by Sir H. Pottinger. Sir R. PEEL said that the Crown had already granted him all the honorary distinctions it could bestow. With regard to the pension prayed for, the Crown had no power to grant it, owing to a resolution of the House pressed on it by Mr Hume himself, which prohibited any grant for diplomatic services, unless the recipient had been engaged ten years in active service. Still, as this was an extraordinary case, he was ready to take the responsibility on himself of advising her Majesty to make the proposed provision for Sir H. Pottinger. Lord J. RUSSELL and Lord PALMERSTON expressed their approval of this course, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr WARD then brought forward his annual motion for the appointment of a select committee to inquire whether there were any peculiar burdens specially affecting the landed interest of this country, or any peculiar exemptions enjoyed by that interest, and to ascertain their nature and extent. He denied that the land tax, the poor rates, the tithes, the county rates, the highway rates, the malt tax, and similar impositions, were peculiar burdens on the land; but even if they were, there was to be set against them the exemptions enjoyed by the land in not being liable to the legacy and probate duty, and in the cultivators of it being relieved from the horse tax, from the tax on husbandry servants if employed for domestic services, and various other taxes. If he took into consideration the duties on corn levied for the protection of the landed interest, there was a large balance due to the public; but even if there was not, those duties were the very worst way that could be imagined for giving compensation to the landed interest. Did they deny his facts? Then let them give him a committee for inquiry. Mr S. HERBERT asked why, if Mr Ward was so convinced that the impositions which other parties deemed to be burdens on the land were no burdens at all, did he want to go into committee to prove it? His conviction must rest upon facts; and if he wanted more facts upon this subject, he ought to move for returns, and so obtain them. Mr COBDEN, Mr VERNON SMITH, and Dr BOWRING supported the motion; Mr NEWDEGATE and Sir J. TYRELL opposed it. It was rejected by 182 to 109; majority 73.

The twenty-seventh report of the select committee on petitions mentions that the number of petitions presented to the House of Commons against the Maynooth bill was 10,075, with 1,282,201 signatures; in its favour, 88, with 17,480 signatures.

COVENTRY, JUNE 3, 1845.—An interesting meeting was held here in Cow Lane (Baptist) chapel last night, to receive a report from the delegate appointed to attend the Anti-Maynooth Convention in London. Mr J. Watts, minister, gave an account of an interview with the members for this city, when the great dissatisfaction of their constituents, by their votes on this occasion, was very plainly set forth to them. Mr J. Gordon, minister, gave an eloquent and lucid analysis of the meeting at Crosby hall, wherein the object, by information and enlightenment, was fully attained, and the determination shown, that every opposition should be made to measures so injurious and pernicious.

THE CIRCUIT DIVISION COMMISSION.—It is understood that the report of these commissioners is signed. The substance of it is, that there be two terms before Christmas, viz. Michaelmas term, commencing on the 2nd, and ending on the 25th day of November; and Hilary term, commencing on the 2nd, and ending on the 23rd of December; that the spring circuits begin on the 10th day of January; that the sittings in Middlesex and London fill up the term intervening between the circuits and

Easter term, the 15th of April; that Yorkshire be a separate circuit, to be taken by the two judges who go on the Norfolk circuit; that the barristers now on the Norfolk circuit may go to York, and meet such of the barristers now on the northern circuit as may choose York in preference to Liverpool.

THE LATE FIRE IN FENCHURCH STREET.—The inquest on the bodies of Mrs Satchell, aged 27, and of her infant son, aged 15 months, took place yesterday. During the examination of witnesses there was nothing transpired which tended to throw any light upon the cause of the fire. Mr Braidwood, the superintendent of the fire-brigade, thought it likely that it might have occurred from the ignition of some timber joist in or near the place connected with the kiln. A long and desultory conversation ensued, as to the means adopted to obtain fire-ladders on the occasion, and as to the manner in which the engines had been sent for. A close examination into the circumstances satisfied the jury that, with regard to the latter, everything that was necessary had been done, but as to the fire-escapes or ladders it was too painfully evident that no attempt had been made to bring any one of them, calculated to be of service, to the spot. The police sheltered themselves by stating that they were assured that all the inmates had escaped safely, and, with the exception of one witness who was examined, there was no direct evidence throwing doubt upon the fact. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" in both cases, and the proceedings, which extended over four hours, terminated. In reference to fire-escapes the following resolution was agreed to:—

"The undersigned, jurors at the inquest held on Mrs Satchell and her child, who were burnt at the recent fire in Fenchurch street, beg very strongly to draw the attention of the police committee to the subject of fire-escapes, to be placed under the superintendence of the police, and furnished at every station, and other convenient distances throughout the city of London, which the jurors are of opinion would tend to save many lives, and would probably have saved those of the two individuals now under their notice."

Mr SETON.—Mr SETON, who, it will be recollect, was dangerously wounded in a duel at Gosport, a few days since, expired on Monday evening about half-past seven o'clock. An inquest will be held this day.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly meeting of this body took place on Monday, the Lord Mayor in the chair. Mr O'Connell first warned those who had convened the Anti-Maynooth Conference at Dublin that the terms in which it was called would make it an illegal body. It was stated that they were "representatives," and "representing localities," and by doing so they were unquestionably guilty of a breach of the Convention act. He recommended them to consult Mr Napier as to the form in which the Conference ought to be held so as to avoid any infringement of the law. He then proceeded to observe, that as the Party Processions act had expired, it was likely that the Orangemen of the north would hold processions on the approaching 1st of July. He trusted that none of those demonstrations should be interfered with, and gave notice of a motion to that effect. Mr E. W. O'MAHONY, a barrister, announced his intention of withdrawing from the Association, which occasioned a good deal of disturbance and altercation. He gave as his reason that there were persons on the parliamentary committee with whom he felt that as a man of honour he could no longer sit in council. Mr O'Brien said that the real reason of his withdrawal was simply that, when balloted for in the '82 Club, Mr O'Mahony had been excluded. The retiring member was saluted with a shower of hisses. Mr O'Connell again condemned the Irish Educational measure:—

He was sorry to be obliged to state, that the memorial put forward by the Catholic bishops was treated with disregard, he would not say with contempt [hear, hear]. It was totally unattended to, and Sir James Graham stated that he did not mean to make any alterations in the bill—a declaration which was received with cheers from both sides of the House [hear]. The Catholic bishops and the people of Ireland understood that well, and for his own part, if told that he should receive the bill in its present shape, as a boon, he would answer that he received it, not as a boon, but as a curse, which he abominated from his soul, as being dangerous to the religion and the morals of the youth of Ireland [hear, hear].

Mr W. S. O'Brien, M.P., brought forward a report from the committee of the association on the new banking bill. The report strongly condemned the bill, upon the grounds that it had a tendency to limit the circulation, and to diminish the number of banks in Ireland. The report was adopted. Letters were read from Messrs J. C. O'Callaghan, author of the "Green Book," and M. O'Callaghan, tendering their resignation as members of the association, which was accepted. The rent for the week, as announced, was £642 11s. 8d.

MEXICO AND TEXAS.—A letter published in the *Times*, from its correspondent at Havannah, holds out a confident hope that the annexation of Texas to the United States will be prevented by the recognition of the independence of the former country by Mexico. Negotiations to secure this result were proceeding between the two countries.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	1570	160	110			
Scotch						
Irish			3290			
Foreign ..	6470	2810	4990			

Prices are much the same as on Monday, but the market is dull.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Letters have been received from "H. Hewetson," "Senex," "J. R. Balme," and "A Dissenter," which require no particular reply, and which want of space forbids our inserting.

"A. T. T." Government is bound to furnish protection to all its subjects, and clearly has the right to obtain such means as are necessary to enable it to accomplish this object.

"U. C." We have not inserted his letter, inasmuch as Dr Halley has publicly corrected the mistake of the reporter, the substance of which correction is contained in the following passage: "Allow me to say that I most earnestly wish that all the Dissenting colleges would send their students to matriculate in the London university, as I have encouraged my own son recently to do. I distinctly confined my objection to the theological examination."

"G. J. A." We likewise see the inconsistency, but we do not think it likely to get rid of it by designating those charged with it as "sanctimonious humbugs."

"B. F. B." We may, perhaps, find room for his letter next week.

"C. W." Many thanks.

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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 1845.

SUMMARY.

THE debate on Lord John Russell's nine resolutions, on the first stage of which we made some remarks last week, was resumed on Wednesday night, and was nearly wrecked upon the shoal known to legislators by the name of "count out." The Derby proved more powerful in its attractive influences than the House of Commons. Horseflesh, when set against the state of the labouring classes, was at a premium. By whipping in, however, the requisite number of members—viz., forty—was maintained, and the debate wore heavily along to a division. Lord Howick bade somewhat higher than his former colleague for public confidence. He came out as a free trader, not merely in opinion, but in will. He advocated the immediate and entire abandonment of the protective policy, and urged a revision of the tariff, with a view to abolish every duty which was not levied *bond fide* for the purposes of revenue. Sir R. Peel followed, in a tone far more likely to distress his quondam supporters than his present nominal opponents. The general tenor of his speech answers to our anticipations of last week, and shows that, whether or not a formal coalition between himself and Lord John shall take place, they are essentially agreed upon all the main principles of our imperial policy, and might take office together without the smallest compromise. The division, to which no interest attaches, was as follows—for Mr Crawford's amendment, 33; against it, 253; for the previous question, 182; for Lord John Russell's first resolution, 104: majority, 78.

On Thursday, Lord Brougham's Insolvency law was dragged upon the carpet by Mr H. Berkeley, who moved for a select committee to inquire into the effect produced upon debtors and creditors by the operation of that act; to which Sir J. Graham replied, that a bill for effecting an alteration had already made some progress in the House of Lords, and upon this statement the motion was withdrawn. Sergeant Murphy then moved for a committee to take into consideration the subject of ministers' money in Ireland, but the discussion had scarcely been entered upon when the House was counted out. On Friday there was an animated debate on the privileges of parliament, raised by the recent proceedings in the case of *Howard v. Gossett*. The question in substance was this—whether the people or the crown possesses superior jurisdiction. We have, it is well known, no sympathy with the House of Commons as at present constituted. We believe it to be what the member for Shrewsbury designated a conservative government—"an organised hypocrisy." But its privileges are, in theory at least, the privileges of the people, and were wrested from monarchy after a severe contest. We are anxious that they should be transmitted unimpaired to that assembly which, hereafter, may fully embody the mind of the empire. We concur, therefore, with those who would maintain the independence of the House. Sir R. Peel, however, truckled as usual, and the consequence was, that the debate was adjourned till Monday, the 9th June, leaving the question open for the present, and giving to Mr Howard an opportunity for levying an execution for damages in the interval.

At the close of this discussion, the second reading of the Colleges (Ireland) bill was moved by Sir James Graham, and opposed by Lord John Manners, on the ground that it did not provide religious instruction for the people. The Home Secretary, in defending his project, sketched the religious instruction, as given at Christ church, Oxford, during his residence there. Considering the very pious tendencies he has, of late, evinced, the coun-

try will be surprised to hear from his lips that, during two years and a half of his stay at Oxford, he never attended a divinity lecture, nor received from his tutor, nor from any one in his college, any religious instruction whatever, nor listened to one university sermon. Of course, these things are all altered now; and yet we shrewdly suspect that, if searching inquiries were made in the proper quarter, it would be found that the training of our aristocratic and clerical youth, as conducted at both the universities, is about on a level, in point of spiritual advantage, with that described by Sir James Graham. For our own part, we are utterly sick of the hypocrisy which prompts these legislators to talk of the absolute necessity of combining religious with secular instruction in great academical institutions. Why, is it not a notorious fact that Oxford and Cambridge are perfect sewers of profligacy, and that the surrounding country reeks with the stench of their immorality? Can any one have been present at college devotions, without fancying himself surrounded by a crowd of unfledged but graceless infidels? But for the property connected with the state church, and the formal pretences which must hence be maintained, would human beings, having the smallest respect to the awful verities of religion, venture, as do our graduates and undergraduates, to trifle and play the buffoon, whilst professedly seeking the favour of their offended Maker? Religious instruction is, indeed, an inestimable advantage—an advantage without which the young are exposed to imminent peril; but money is not likely to purchase it—the state has never been able to secure it—and the whole solicitude of parliament in regard to it is exclusively political, and, we may add, aristocratic.

The subject was resumed on Monday evening; and the debate which followed was long and prosy. Education is, however, a darling idea with the House of Commons; and so, on the slenderest argumentation of Sir R. Peel, that academical institutions might hereafter benefit the physical condition of Ireland, the House affirmed the second reading of the bill by a majority of 265.

Turn we now to the House of Lords. On Friday night Lord Radnor submitted a somewhat timid measure for regulating the odious power assumed by the Home Secretary, of detaining and opening the letters of her Majesty's subjects. The debate which followed was chiefly remarkable for the part taken in it by Lord Denman, who eloquently denounced the criminality of the ancient practice, and boldly questioned whether it could stand the test of a legal encounter. Lord Stanley pointed out some of the deficiencies of the proposed measure: and Lord Brougham, we regret to say, stood sponsor for the whole system. The division showed but 9 contents for the second reading of the bill—non-contents 55.

On Monday the second reading of the Maynooth Endowment bill was moved by the Duke of Wellington, in a speech which, for historic argument, was the clearest, the most vigorous, and by far the best which we have seen. Lord Roden attempted to stop the progress of the measure, by moving for a committee to inquire into the nature of the instruction usually given at the college. The Duke of Cambridge warmly eulogised the bill. The Bishop of London, with evident reluctance, opposed it. The Bishop of Cashel declared that rather than allow the endowment, by the state, of two antagonistic systems of faith, he would venture upon the voluntary principle; and herein he speaks, we believe, the mind of the Irish Protestant clergy. There were some other speakers, who seldom take part in public debate, and the discussion was then adjourned. Our postscript will probably contain a statement of its closing result. We anticipate that it will be carried by a large majority.

Meanwhile, the new ecclesiastical policy of her Majesty's ministers is destined to encounter further out-of-door opposition. Memorials to the Queen, for the dissolution of parliament, have been strenuously recommended by the Central Anti-Maynooth Committee, by the Committee appointed by the Conference of Protestant Dissenters held at Crosby hall, and by the Committee of Deputies of the Three Denominations; and forms have been given in each case. That suggested by the Central Anti-Maynooth Committee proceeds upon the ground of attachment to Protestantism "as by law established," and cannot, therefore, consistently receive the signature of a single Dissenter. Those recommended by the other committees are substantially the same, basing opposition to the Maynooth Endowment bill upon the broad ground of objection to all state churches. We trust that one or the other of these will be signed by all who value the principles of Nonconformity.

We learn from Scotland that the Free church is suffering peculiar hardship, in consequence of the refusal of sites for building chapels, by aristocratic landlords. Dr Chalmers, we should imagine, will see the hand of Providence in this. When, in the first hour of his secession from the established kirk, he trampled upon voluntaryism, and offered incense to lords and gentry, he plaited the whip which now lacerates the back of the Scottish Free church. May he, and all connected

with him, see their error, repent, and confess! The principle which they scorned has maintained them—the men whom they flattered and coaxed have turned their backs upon them. When will they be wise?

Ireland has witnessed a sort of informal inauguration of Daniel O'Connell as the head authority of that island. His levee was most numerously attended, and the procession which conducted him to and from it, was one of the most numerous that has yet taken place. The bill for founding the academical institutions, however, has brought to light a serious division between "Old and Young Ireland." It was, of course, speedily suppressed, amidst much show of feeling and tears on both sides; but that there is an important difference of opinion between the advocates for repeal has been made apparent to all the world, and the moral force of the agitation will be thereby greatly diminished.

The news brought by the *Hibernia* steam ship from America, is pacific in its character. The blustering of Jonathan has subsided, and an amicable arrangement of differences is not improbable.

WHY SO BOLD?

PUBLIC affairs in this country, it cannot be denied, are in a most anomalous state. Government, which, according to all the theories of it which have in modern days been propounded, should constitute merely the organised mechanism for concentrating and giving practical effect to the will of the people, is gradually becoming a self-acting and independent power, having within itself its entire resources, and competent to work out its designs, not only without, but in spite of, the national sanction. We pride ourselves upon our free institutions. Passing events might teach us, however, that they have no existence elsewhere than in our imaginations. In the outer world of fact we may search for them in vain. Such political institutions as we have, are no more ours, than are the broad acres upon which a prisoner may gaze through the loopholes of his cell. We do not work them. They are not under our management. They answer, in no respect, to our will. Our occasional attempts to control them serve but to expose us to ridicule—we maim ourselves without accomplishing our object. The whole business of legislation goes on without the smallest respect to our wishes. We might as well, for any ability we possess to modify the decisions of the imperial government, be subject to the laws of irreversible destiny.

Such language, we are fully aware, will be set down by many as nothing more than the exaggeration which habit has rendered familiar to journalism—the bold, black type of the newspaper style. And yet, surely, the last three months have furnished even those who look upon all public proceedings through the stained window of their own easy circumstances, with evidence sufficiently telling in support of our remarks. The Maynooth Endowment bill was not born of truth and justice—it was not nursed by popular affection—it was not hidden "as a proper child" by enlightened faith—no party out of doors owned it as a pet—its features awakened in no large section of the community the yearnings of parental solicitude—it was universally believed to be the child of ministerial infidelity—the wee, misshapen brat of political apostasy. The Peel government, however, pledged themselves that it should live, and live it will, whoever may say "Nay!" Upwards of a million subjects—neither the ignorant, nor the thoughtless, nor the fickle, but the religious, of the community—implored what they took to be their own House to stifle the little monster—held meetings, passed resolutions, memorialised members, formed strange alliances, showed anger, threatened, raved, denounced—but all in vain. The House of Commons looked them in the face, and, winking its eye in impudent derision, dandled the government offspring on its knee, cosseted it with most affectionate care, called it "angel," and, in the very midst of national indignation, handed it up to the House of Lords, to be by them introduced unhurt into the sanctuary of law.

Now, it may not be amiss to inquire into the probable grounds for this manifest contempt by the government and the legislature for public opinion. Some things lying upon the surface may contribute to an explanation of the present determined attitude of party statesmen—the inconsistency, for example, of state-church arguments with state-church proceedings—the impossibility of any lasting compact between the abettors and the opponents of religious establishments—the essential hollowness of the "no popery" cry considered as a political element—and other features of the opposition which tend to divide and weaken its real force. These things, however, cannot, when taken together, present any satisfactory solution of the mystery before us. It must be sought for lower down than most men have suspected, and, when found, it will not, we fear, excite any sanguine hopes of an immediate change for the better. But, surely, it is wise to acquaint ourselves with the actual evil under which our country groans, and in virtue of which we are passing with so alarm-



ing a speed from bad to worse. The subject, it is true, cannot be dealt with as its importance demands, in a single article, nor are we just at present at leisure to pursue it—but we may indicate our views in a few words, and, when the rush of events is over, may give a more systematic and detailed exposition of them.

Government, in the case of the Maynooth Endowment bill, is plainly at daggers drawn with public opinion. This it has never concealed from itself. Nevertheless, it entertains no fears respecting the future; it neither goes softly, nor bears itself meekly, nor exercises even an ordinary care to avoid jostling against the prejudices of its opponent. How is this? Simply because the government well knows that, be opinion whatever it may, the political morality of the legislature is on a par, at least, with the political morality of the constituent bodies. What men *think* is of small consequence to statesmen—what men *care about* is all that concerns them. The electoral history of the last ten years has amply demonstrated that the opinions of the middle classes have been immeasurably ahead of their patriotism. Every shrewd observer might detect in them a lurking, but potent, infidelity as to all the principles they professed. In scarcely a single instance have their electoral movements been governed by their openly avowed views of what they believed to be right. They have held great truths in abeyance at the beck of party. They have sanctioned all kinds of corruption as the readiest means to temporary triumph. They have sought out for representatives men able and willing to spend large sums in securing their own return. They have preferred any infamy to defeat. The nod of a noble lord—the smile or the frown of a titled customer—the interested judgment of the few of their own class who have wriggled themselves into town councils and magisterial chairs—the horror of being looked upon as impracticable—any one of a thousand petty influences of this kind has ordinarily prevailed to silence all mention of just principles, and to stop all attempts on their behalf. Ministers know this—members of parliament calculate upon it: representation is a purchaseable commodity, and the very classes who denounce the old freemen take their bribe, not in solid coin, but in fancied respectability.

Things may undergo a vast revolution before the next general election—but where are the germs of the change? Take the Dissenters as a specimen—that portion of them, we mean, whose influence tells most upon the poll. Do they intend to evince any earnest care for those principles upon which the government tramples in disdain? We hope so. But what will a sagacious statesman see, if he uses his eyes to any purpose? What? Why, imposing periodicals started and maintained by Dissent, to damp the too great fervour of such as seek a practical realisation of their views—men of mark in every town standing aloof from, and whispering calumnies against, the only organisation which aims to diffuse a knowledge of Nonconforming principles—ministers of renown chiding every frank development of anti-establishment truths—all sorts of excuses, pretences, evasions, and sometimes palpable contradictions, put forth to postpone, if possible, any serious contest with the monster evil of the day. This he will see, even now—now, whilst Dissenters are condemning the Maynooth bill with all the emphasis which resolutions can be made to express, and are threatening their displeasure at the coming election. And what, witnessing all this, will that statesman say? This, or something like this, if he be wise in his generation—"Let them bluster—there needs no fear. They give proof enough that when matters come to a pinch, care for their own principles will not be proof against temptation. They are men whom dexterity can manage. We have time before us, and we will neutralise their whole strength."

May not Sir Robert Peel's courage be accounted for by some such reasoning as the above? And what is too true of Dissenters, is it not true also of the middle classes generally? This, we are persuaded, is the secret of the government's pertinacity—this explains their boldness.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PRESS.

THE TOOTH OF BUDDH.

(From the *Leeds Times*.)

The British government, which has just taken the Irish Catholic priesthood under its patronage, ominously exhibits itself about the same time, as the patroniser of the Indian worship of Buddh! Our Queen is not only the "nursing mother" of the churches of England and Scotland, but is now the colleague of the Pope, and the patron of whole bushels of Indian gods. What an enlarged sympathy with the religion, the superstition, the idolatry of mankind!

It is not very long since the priests of the temple of Juggernaut were maintained directly out of the funds of the British government in India. The dancing women, the car of the idol, which annually crushed thousands to death in its hideous progress, the priests and the prostitutes, were all "established" and paid by the state. And why? Because the annual pilgrimage to the festival of the idol, from all parts of India, was a source of enormous wealth to the British government! The Pilgrim tax, as it was called, was one of the most productive ever levied; and we know and could name indi-

viduals in this country, connected with the levying of that tax, who have made gigantic fortunes by their "pious" labours at the avenues of the temple of Juggernaut!

Still more recently, the British Governor-general of India made a furious raid into the territories of Afghanistan, at the head of a British army; and after destroying thousands of lives, he returned carrying with him as a trophy—what? the gates of the temple of the idol of Siva—one of the most disgusting and brutalising superstitions of northern India. Avenger of "the wrongs of centuries," and patroniser of national superstitions in the name of the British government, the Earl of Ellenborough exhibited himself before the votaries of Bramah, Buddh, and Vishnu, as a regular Hindoo; as one who was also ready to be Mussulman, Confucianite, or Christian, as the representative of her Britannic Majesty's government.

Another "religious" farce has just been played by the servants of her Majesty in the island of Ceylon. It seems that, according to regular treaty, the religion of Buddh is "maintained and protected" in that island by the British government; who select and appoint the priests of the idol, dispense the temple patronage, and have in their sacred keeping at Dallada, the tooth, and other relics of Buddh.

Well—according to the latest news from India, certain Siamese priests had visited Kandy, in the island of Ceylon for the purpose of seeing and worshipping the relic, called the tooth of Buddh, which is carefully preserved by the British government. After some of the usual palaver, accompanied doubtless with the offering of gifts to the holy functionaries of the Christian government of Britain, the sacred tooth was brought out and exhibited to the adoring strangers from Siam, in the presence of Lord Elphinstone, by Mr Mercer, the assistant government agent.

Such is state religion carried out to its legitimate consequences. Error, superstition—nay, even the most brutalising rites, are endowed, as well as truth. There is no discrimination; for, as Sir James Graham avowed in his last speech on the Maynooth bill—"Whenever, on matters of state, questions of religion arise, these questions must be decided upon political and not theological grounds." So that the same reasons which warrant him in establishing Episcopacy or Catholicism, would equally warrant him in patronising the god Priapis, or endowing the temple of Siva or Juggernaut.

FIRE ESCAPES.

(From the *Examiner*.)

THE dangers about which people are most careless, and against which fewest precautions are taken, are those of fire and water. They go to sea in packets without boats, and they live in houses without fire-escapes. A person who, in looking at a lodging, or apartments at a hotel, asked to see the arrangements at the top of the house for escape from fire would be set down as deranged. Such a precaution never occurs to any one, and the importance of it only strikes the mind when some unfortunate victims have been burnt to death for want of it. In nineteen houses out of twenty, if the means of escape from the roof were examined, they would be found impracticable from neglect. The ladders are wanting, they have been used for other purposes, broken, or carefully put away in the cellars; or the bolt of the trap has rusted and stuck fast, or the hinges are out of order and won't turn. Such a precaution as making the whole family ascend to the roof to show them what they would have to do in the event of fire, what direction they must take, and what they would have to climb to get to the next house-top in safety, is most probably quite unexampled. And yet there is not a person who goes to rest in this huge city of tinder-box habitations without a consciousness that the danger may occur, the escape from which by the easiest and simplest means has been neglected. Though there is little fear of robbery, bolts and bars are provided; but, though there is much peril of fire, ladders and traps are unthought of, and the greater number of people have not informed themselves where they are to be looked for in case of need. While the rudest arrangement for escape is so neglected, it is not wonderful that better means are not adopted. The escape from the roof, if properly attended to, would be enough in small houses; but in the larger class, with several stories, a nearer escape is wanted, and the staircases and passages may be filled with smoke, and impassable. In the fire at Raggett's there was neither time for escape by the roof nor by the door. As for escape by machines, no reliance can be placed on them. They may or may not arrive in time; and they may or may not be properly used; the chances are, in the terror and haste, that some mistake will be made, and a fatal accident the consequence. There is, however, a sure and easy escape from every floor in rows of houses, by the simple expedient of having balconies to bed-rooms fronting the street, as well as to drawing-rooms. In the event of fire, the weak and the aged would only have to step out on their balconies, and to pass over to that of the next house, with as little difficulty as getting over a stile. But then the objection is started, that such a mode of communication might be used for improper purposes. The drawing room balconies, running contiguous, as they do, in many streets, might be so used now; but it is not found that they are so used. The communications over the house-tops allow of abuse, but no inconvenience is experienced.

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With balconies to the second floor rooms of the generality of London houses, the means of escape would be sufficient, the third floor, or the garrets, having the escape by the roof. Considering the common danger of fire, the great dread of it, and the deficiency of contrivances for escape, the expedient we suggest is entirely deserving of consideration. Its simplicity is, however, much against its adoption. Some gimcrack piece of machinery will be much preferred, liable only to the two objections, that it is either not to be had, or cannot be properly used when it is wanted.

The speculators in railway shares have been somewhat startled by a clause in the income-tax papers just issued, which enumerates the profits made by "buying and selling shares in railways," among the items of income. Some, who have made their thousands during the railway mania, will find this a most inconvenient clause, if it is put in force; but there will be the difficulty, for there is sure to be a great deal of evasion on the subject.—*Sun.*

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Agriculture, for relief of, 1.
County Courts, for establishment of, 5.
Education (Ireland), for removing restrictions on, 62.
Factories, for restricting labour in, 4.
Game Laws, for repeal of, 3.
Hill Coolies, against importation of, 1.
Insolvent Debtors act, for repeal of, 20.
Justices' Clerks bill, against, 2.
Lord's Day, for the better observance of, 24.
Maynooth College, against grant to, 35.
for, 1.
Malt Tax, for repeal of, 1.
Ministers' Money (Ireland), for abolition of, 4.
Parliamentary Suffrage, for extension of, 5.
Parochial Settlements bill, against, 14.
Public Houses, for diminishing the number of, 20.
Sale of Beer act, for amendment of, 9.
Schoolmasters (Scotland), for ameliorating their condition, 3.
St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses, against union of, 10.
Universities (Scotland), for abolition of tests, 6.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Dog Stealing bill.
Charitable Purposes bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Roman Catholic Relief bill.
Coroners (Ireland) bill.
Scientific and Literary Societies bill.
Privy Council bill.
Colleges (Ireland) bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Banking (Scotland) bill.
(Ireland) bill.
Privy Council bill.

BILL READ A THIRD TIME.

Military Savings' Banks bill.

DEBATES.

Wednesday, May 28th.

CONDITION OF THE LABOURING CLASSES.

THE debate on Lord John Russell's resolutions was resumed in a very thin house, the attractions of the "Derby" being more powerful to the majority of members than a discussion on the series of abstract resolutions propounded by the noble lord. When Mr BICKHAM ESCOTT began to speak, there were but thirty members present; and soon afterwards an attempt was made to count out the House; but that was frustrated by some who came in, and made up the required number of forty. Later in the evening the numbers increased.

Mr PHILIP HOWARD opposed the resolutions because they would imply a censure on the government, and therefore naturally lead to a resignation of the ministers, before any other compact body of men were ready to supply their places.

Mr ESCOTT (an agricultural member) followed on the same side, giving the protective system, however, some heavy blows as he went along:

The fact was (he said), that the system of protection was shattered and tottering, and every succeeding discussion served to knock out another stone from the ill-constructed arch. There was but one rational way to defend protection. If it could not be supported as the means of ensuring a certain domestic supply of corn, and thereby, on an average number of years, enabling the consumer to procure it cheaper, he thought it could not be defended at all [loud cries of "Hear, hear," from the opposition]. He thought no statesman could defend protection of one of the first necessities of life, upon the ground that it would put money into the pockets of the owners of land [hear, hear]. He believed that all the arguments which had been made by those who had put themselves forward as the exclusive defenders of protection, had only tended to prove that such protection could not much longer be maintained [cheers from the opposition]. It might be injurious to his interests to make such an avowal, but although he had received favours from individuals who differed from him in that opinion, he felt that they were not favours which had been bought at any sacrifice of his own integrity, and they should not be preserved or continued if their preservation and continuance could not be secured consistently with what he conscientiously believed to be his duty to the House, the country, and the people who had sent him to parliament [cheers].

Captain PECHELL spoke in favour of, and Sir JOHN WALSH against, the resolutions.

Lord HOWICK supported the resolutions, in a rather long speech. He strongly animadverted on the course taken by ministers, in moving the "previous question," arguing that, unless they could prove the condition of the working classes to be satisfactory, they were bound instantly to grapple with the question of improvement. He commented on the scanty attendance of members; and especially on the absence of Lord ASHLEY, who ought to have helped in bringing the condition of the working classes before parliament. He insisted that dependence is not to be placed on the present aspect of prosperity, and that measures ought to be taken to provide for more adverse times; and he vindicated the comprehensive nature of the resolutions, as embracing subjects closely connected, and all necessary to a correct view of the main question, the condition of the working classes. He maintained that they were practical in their nature; for what Lord John Russell proposed to improve the state of the working classes was the simple, and, he believed, effectual course of removing restrictions and setting the labouring man free to make the most of his industry. Lord HOWICK thought that the system of restriction ought to be at once and entirely abandoned; the time for compromise having quite gone by. He could wish to go through the whole tariff, and at once abolish every duty which was not levied *bona fide* for the purpose of revenue.

Sir R. PEEL denied that the thin attendance in the House during the greater part of the evening could be ascribed to any apathy on the part of its members with respect to the welfare of the labour-

ing classes. On the contrary, he viewed it as an indication of the general impression which prevailed that the noble lord had not introduced his various resolutions in a manner which rendered it possible to act upon them with practical effect. He could not attempt to venture upon the discussion of topics so multifarious, many of them of great importance, and each of them sufficient to justify a long debate. It was far better to deal practically with these various subjects as they became ripe for legislation, instead of dealing in promises, which, however easily made, were sometimes very difficult, as they had very recently experienced, to be carried out in all their details. Government had already done much towards the advancement of education, and of other matters referred to in the resolutions of the noble lord; and they were ready to avail themselves of every opportunity, as it arose, to propose practical measures for the improvement of the condition of the labouring classes. He bantered Lord John on his "cautious and deliberate" resolution about altering the corn laws:—

If I thought it advisable to come to the abstract resolution on this subject, I do not see how I could differ from the noble lord; because, when he asks us to consider the subject with such cautious and deliberate arrangements as may be most beneficial, I consider that that is the very course we have taken; and I confess I thought the noble lord was going to pay us a compliment on the course we pursued. We have added to no protective duties. Our course has been to withdraw protection, combined with such "cautious and deliberate arrangements" as we thought would "most benefit all classes of her Majesty's subjects." I do not see how it is possible for any gentleman who thinks with the noble lord the member for Sunderland (Lord Howick), that the corn laws ought to be immediately and unconditionally repealed—that there should be an indiscriminate repeal of all prohibitory duties, and without any delay—to vote for the resolutions of the noble lord, combined with his "cautious and deliberate arrangements." Why, the two noble lords expressed opinions decidedly adverse on the subject of the corn law.

It was for the House to decide whether the course taken by ministers should be marked for disapproval. Sir ROBERT could only say that, during former years, he did not remember any such great improvement as that which has taken place in the condition of the country during the last two or three years. To the principle of the second and third resolutions—that protective duties are in themselves an evil—he could not but give his acquiescence; though their remission requires great deliberation. It seemed that ministers had forfeited the confidence of Sir John Tyrell and his friends for going too rapidly:—

How far the honourable baronet was authorised to speak the sentiments of a very large and powerful party, he (Sir R. Peel) knew not; but this he must say, that he could not consent to re-purchase their confidence by the expression of any regret or repentance on account of the course which they had taken [cheers from the opposition]. He believed that that course had greatly conduced to the general interests of this country ["hear," and cheers]. When he compared—which he did without intending to draw a contrast for the purpose of exalting one administration at the expense of another—the position of this country a few winters back, with the position of the country at the present moment, he never could admit that they had taken any other course than that which became the ministers of the Crown, and ministers professing conservative principles [hear, hear].

He was not prepared to alter the existing corn law. He had proposed it after due deliberation; and nothing could be more mischievous to the country than to be always tampering with such a subject. He believed that that law had been beneficial so far as it had prevented any increase in the price of corn. The welfare of the proprietors of land did not depend on the nominal price of the quarter of corn. If he could read to the House the accounts which he had received, in 1842, of the distress and crime which prevailed at that time in the manufacturing districts, he could convince the most decided advocate of the landed interest that it was threatened with greater danger from the continuance of that distress and crime than it ever had incurred from any other cause. He knew that the decision of the House would be governed by higher motives than its hopes of pecuniary remuneration; but if it were not, he should emphatically declare that the state of things in 1842 could not have continued long without affecting the interests of land. Again he lauded his own measures, and expressed his determination to abide by them. Government would carry them into execution with deliberate caution; but, for the protection of individuals, and for the promotion of the cause which he and Lord John Russell both had at heart, they would avoid that precipitate course which these resolutions recommended, but which was unsanctioned either by prudence or by justice.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL replied principally with reference to the corn law question, which he earnestly impressed on the House should be settled in a time of tranquillity and prosperity, and directed himself, in conclusion, to the subject of confidence in ministers:—

That the measures of the right honourable baronet should have lost for him the confidence of honourable gentlemen on his own side of the House was not surprising, while they had not been of that character to secure for him that of his opponents. But, though he agreed with the honourable member for Essex, that he had, considering the understanding upon which he had supported the right honourable baronet in obtaining his present position, grounds for withdrawing his confidence, he disagreed with him, and those who thought with him, that the importation of foreign cattle and Canadian corn had injured the farmers of this country. He did not believe that those importations had been at all injurious; those importations he believed had had but little effect on the markets of this country, but if those imports were greater, he was of opinion it would be for the benefit rather than the injury of this country. The agricultural interest must look for their prosperity to the prosperity of the country generally. So far he dif-

fered from the honourable gentleman opposite [hear]. But when they went on to say that they had been led to expect that the present government would be in favour of protection and against free trade, he thought they were fully justified in that observation [cheers]. In fact, the truth of it was undeniable. The speeches of the right honourable baronet (Sir R. Peel) and his friends in 1839 and 1840, tended to produce, and no doubt did produce, an impression that they were the determined friends and advocates of what was understood as protection to the industry of this country; and while he said that their subsequent measures had been in many respects useful and not pernicious, that was no ground of confidence on the part of any party, for it could not be denied that they had, by declaring against our course of policy, carried the election of 1841, and having thus obtained office, had proposed measures, which he admitted to be beneficial to the country, but at the same time directly opposed to those declarations [hear]. As the right honourable baronet had raised this question of confidence, this was his (Lord J. Russell's) answer. But if Sir John Tyrell, imitating Sir John Yarde Buller in 1841, were to vote "want of confidence" in ministers, Lord John would hesitate in voting with him; for he thought, if those whig principles he and his friends advocated were to be carried into effect, they would, under present circumstances, be more likely to be carried into effect by the present government than by their opponents.

Viscount CLEMENTS rose, amid some deprecatory exclamations of surprise, and complained that the resolutions omitted all mention of Ireland; it might be supposed from them that the union had been repealed. They spoke of general tranquillity, while there was the agitation marked by the meeting of Tara; and he came from a county in a state of anarchy, ribandism being there the governing force.

The House divided first upon Mr Crawford's amendment; which was negatived by 253 to 33.

The House next divided on the "previous question," as opposed to the first resolution; which was carried by 182 to 104; majority against the resolution, 78. The rest was successively put, and negatived.

Mr CHARLES HINDLEY, Sir EDMUND FILMER, and Mr HAWES, complained that they had been shut out, not only during the first division, but also till the second had taken place. The SPEAKER said, that was wrong; and steps should be taken to prevent a recurrence of the mistake.

The House adjourned at a quarter to two o'clock on Thursday morning.

Thursday, May 29th.

INSOLVENCY LAW.

Mr HENRY BERKELEY moved for a select committee to inquire into the effect produced upon debtors and creditors by the operation of the Insolvency act of last session; sarcastically expressing admiration for Lord Brougham, as "a bill-begetting peer." He explained that he did not desire to re-enact arrest for small debts; but the act of last session has substituted one evil for another:—

One consequence of it was evidently was, that every debt under £20 became now a debt of honour. One of the arguments used in favour of such a system was, that credit ought not to be given. That, indeed, was a strange doctrine—it was passing strange to maintain such a doctrine in a country avowedly dependent upon mercantile credit for its commercial prosperity; the accumulated capital of this country was estimated at less than £184,000,000, while the cash in circulation did not exceed £46,000,000. If there were to be no credit among tradesmen for the working-classes, the effect of such a denial would be often to compel the poor man to follow his departed child to pauper's grave. He could produce to the House many cases showing an unjust and unequal operation of the act of last session. Among others was one of a widow resident at Bath, upwards of ninety years of age, who was imprisoned for a debt of £34; whilst there were owing to her several debts under £20, but in the aggregate more than sufficient to pay the amount for which she was imprisoned.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM said, that as soon as the effect of the act was ascertained, an alteration of the law was contemplated. A bill for that purpose had already made some progress in the other House; and therefore he hoped that Mr Berkeley would not press his motion.

In a short conversation, some members favourable to the object of the motion also suggested its withdrawal, lest the inquiry should hinder the bill.

Thus urged, Mr BERKELEY agreed; and the motion was withdrawn.

MINISTERS' MONEY IN IRELAND.

Mr Sergeant MURPHY moved that the House resolve itself into a committee to take into consideration the "act for providing of ministers in cities and corporate towns, and making the church of St Andrews, in Dublin, presentative for ever," with a view to the repeal of so much thereof as relates to the payment of ministers in corporate towns in Ireland.

Sir H. W. BARRON seconded the motion.

Sir T. FREMANTLE admitted that the tax of "ministers' money" operated unequally and harshly, and intimated that it had been under the consideration of the government as to whether some remedy could not be devised, but as yet no result had been arrived at. The evils of the tax had, however, been exaggerated, and, at all events, it could not be repealed until a substitute was provided. He hoped the hon. and learned gentleman would withdraw his motion, on the assurance that he (Sir T. Fremantle) would direct his attention to the matter.

Mr E. B. ROCHE rose to speak on the matter, but there were found to be not forty members present, and the House was counted out.

Friday, May 30th.

PRIVILEGES OF PARLIAMENT.

A long and rambling discussion, which occupied a great part of the evening, was raised by the recent proceedings in the case of *Howard v. Gossell*. Lord

JOHN RUSSELL referred to a report which the Solicitor-general had presented on Thursday; it promised a later and more detailed report on the whole case; and advised, that the Solicitor-general should take out a writ of error, and that in the meantime the levy of the damages obtained by the plaintiff should not be resisted; Lord John would not commit the House to that course, and advised waiting until the fuller report was presented.

A long desultory conversation followed. Execution for damages can be levied on Monday next; and the question was, how to act so as least to compromise the privileges of the House. Sir ROBERT INGLIS was spokesman for those who would submit to the judgment of the law courts without demur. Lord JOHN RUSSELL thought it too late to interfere with the course of the legal proceedings. Mr HUME was for immediate resistance, and moved resolution declaring those guilty of breach of privilege who should attempt to levy the execution; and Mr ROXBUCK, who seconded that motion, was for pitting the House of Commons, the representative of the people, against the Queen's Bench, the constant supporter of every act of ministerial oppression since the days of Hampden.

Sir ROBERT PEEL, Sir THOMAS WILDE, and others, pointed to this embarrassment as the natural result of that pusillanimous course which originally suffered the privileges of the House to be questioned. Sir Thomas, supported in opinion by Sir FREDERICK THESIGER, declared the criticisms of the court of Queen's Bench on the Speaker's warrant to be puerile and its decision erroneous; and Sir Robert Peel called the decision unjust.

He agreed with those who said that if the House were determined to resist this encroachment on its privileges, the present was the time. He lamented that at the outset of these proceedings the House had consented to plead. He had been party to a resolution that the House had in its own hands the power to defend its privileges, and that any authority which called them in question was guilty of a breach of them. Eight days afterwards the House consented to plead on the advice of Lord Campbell, who knew that its powers of defence were imperfect. He (Sir R. Peel) said that their pleading would fitter their future proceedings, and so it had turned out. If the House were determined to consider the levying of this writ as a breach of privilege, it ought to make its determination that night, and give notice of it to the plaintiff. If it let that night pass without such a notice, it would be giving up all its power. The committee had reported that the House ought not to prevent the levy, and therefore he acquiesced in the motion of adjournment, not concealing from himself the consequences, but being fully aware that the non-exercise of their power that night would prevent them from exercising it in future to punish these parties. He could not assent to Mr Hume's motion, because he was not prepared to enter upon that conflict which Mr Hume evidently contemplated; for if the House determined to vindicate its privileges by its inherent powers, it must be prepared to go to all extremities in vindication of them. But then hon. members must feel in their consciences that the necessity for so doing had arisen, and to succeed they must not only have that impression on their own minds, but must also be backed by the almost unanimous feeling of the people of England, that there was no other alternative for the preservation of their liberty. He did not think that that period had yet arrived. He would not, therefore, resort to that extremity until he had exhausted every other which he conceived to be necessary to vindicate the privileges of the House of Commons, which he believed to be endangered by the unjust decision of a court of justice.

In the course of the discussion, Sir THOMAS WILDE, backed by others, severely censured Mr Fitzroy Kelly for having taken a brief, as counsel for Howard, to combat the privileges of the House to which he belonged. Mr KELLY vindicated his right to do so, and denied that it compromised his independent course as a member.

Eventually, the House divided on Sir FREDERICK THESIGER's motion, to adjourn the debate till Monday the 9th June; which was carried, by 96 to 50. The whole question is thus left open for the present.

ACADEMICAL INSTITUTIONS (IRELAND).

On the order of the day for the second reading of the Colleges (Ireland) bill, Lord JOHN MANNERS, opposing the measure because it did not provide religious instruction for the pupils in the proposed colleges, moved that the bill be read a second time that day six months.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM defended the bill, and explained what alterations he should make in it. Among the alterations, he said that, though he would not make any endowment for theological purposes, he would facilitate the erection of halls in which students could receive theological instruction. To the further demands of the bishops he never could assent. He never could agree to make professorships of logic, geology, and anatomy, exclusively Roman Catholic. The bishops asked that a fair proportion of the professors and office-bearers in the new colleges should be members of the Roman Catholic church: he thought that, as a majority of the students would belong to that church, it was most probable that a majority of the professors would belong to it also. It would be impossible to maintain a Roman Catholic chaplain receiving a salary from the state. As for religious objections, Sir JAMES answered them by giving an amusing sketch of his own life at Oxford, and during the two years and a half he was at Christchurch; he was never called upon to attend any lecture on theology or divinity. He never received any religious instruction whatever, and he was ashamed to say that, during two years and a half, he never heard one university sermon. The hon. member for the university of Oxford would call that a godless system of education, but during the time that he (Sir J. Graham) was a member of Christchurch, he never attended a divinity lecture, nor did he, in point of fact, receive from his tutor, or from any one in that college, any

religious instruction whatever; and, with regard to the attendance on sermons, that was not compulsory.

Sir ROBERT INGLIS denied this unlucky impeachment of his university, and denounced the godless scheme of education over again, agreeing with Mr O'Connell and the Roman Catholic prelates that religion was the basis of all education.

Mr E. B. ROCHE would oppose the further progress of the bill, distrusting the appointment of professors by the Crown. Mr REDINGTON and Mr Ross supported the bill.

The debate was adjourned till Monday.

Monday, June 2nd.

COLLEGES (IRELAND) BILL.

The debate on the second reading of the bill was resumed by

Mr M. MILNES, who declared his intention to support this measure. Those who opposed it on the ground that it did not give religious education were, in his opinion, guilty of a sophism in the sense which they gave to the word "religion." They said that we ought to establish colleges for Roman Catholics on Protestant principles, or that they would not consent to the establishment of them at all. Such language he considered to be equivalent to an absolute negation of all education to the Roman Catholics of Ireland.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL agreed that this measure made no pretension to perfection, but considered that to be rather one of its demerits than its merits. He could have wished that the bill had been prepared with greater care, and had not contained within itself so much crude legislation. The Roman Catholic clergy, who were the instrument by which the affections of the people of Ireland could be best knit together, and by which their attachment to and respect for the law could be best produced, had, in their memorial, implied a distrust that the faith and morals of these students in these new institutions would be endangered by the measure which the government proposed. Unless the government could allay such apprehensions, the very best which it could hope for its measure was, that it would be null, whilst the fear was that it would be noxious. The government ought, therefore, to consider whether there was not some means by which it could make its scheme more palatable to the religious feelings of the Roman catholic clergy of Ireland. He was not of opinion that secular instruction without religious education was an evil; on the contrary, he thought that it was a good. He thought, however, that the two ought to be combined together, if possible. In England religion had always been taught as a part of education but the system propounded in this bill would make these new institutions differ from the only university now existing in Ireland, and from the two universities in England, and would not be agreeable to the feelings of the Irish people. Already had Mr Roche, who, he believed, was a member of the Repeal Association, objected on behalf of his countrymen, to leave the appointment of the professors in these new colleges in the hands of the Crown. He thought that the House might have adopted such a course, had the people of Ireland been willing to submit to it; but they were not willing to do any such thing, because they were afraid of the use which might be made of the power lodged in the Crown. They had a distrust of the use which would be made of it in case Mr Plumptre should come into office, and would have had a still greater distrust of it had Sir R. Peel still continued to hold the same principles which he held five years ago. He therefore recommended the House to give secular instruction without regular education in these new institutions, if it were necessary; but, if it could give both together, not to omit from this bill regulations to accomplish that object. Sir James Graham had expressed his willingness to attach halls to each of these new colleges for religious education. That might mean much, or it might mean little; and, therefore, to ascertain what it meant, he would ask Sir James Graham whether he would permit the deans of those halls to exercise within them over the students any authority on such points as their attendance at the places of their religious worship on Sundays, and their attendance at the ordinary theological lectures, and to inflict punishment, even to expulsion, on such students as might be notorious defaulters in either of those respects? If the government were prepared to give such authority, he thought that it would get over many of the objections urged against the scheme by the Roman Catholic clergy. There was also another feature in the scheme of government which made him consider that it had no pretensions to perfection. There was no machinery by which these colleges could give degrees. He thought that the government ought to institute a university of Ireland, which should be empowered to grant degrees to the students which came from them. Without some such institution the colleges would be branded with a mark of inferiority. On points like these government ought to consult with such men as Dr Murray, on whose character for learning, meekness, piety, and loyalty he passed a high eulogium. If the government would enter into such consultation with the Roman Catholic hierarchy before this bill was sent into committee, he thought that their measure ought to be allowed to proceed further, and that the country might look forward to its ultimate success. He could not agree with Lord John Manners in opposing the second reading of this bill; for, being of opinion that it was, in principle, a good measure, and that it might in its details be amended in committee, he should give it his support.

Lord MAHON observed, that he should support the second reading of the bill, in the hope of amending it in committee. If those amendments which he considered the bill to require were not made in

committee, it would be his unwelcome duty to give the measure on its third reading the most decided opposition. The great defect of this bill was its want of security for religious instruction. To the principle of giving secular knowledge in combination with religious education he was determined to adhere.

Mr B. HOPE would give a cordial support to Lord John Manners's amendment.

Mr HAMILTON disliked the measures in many respects, but could not withhold his assent from the second reading. Mr OSBORNE should vote for the second reading of the bill, having a horror of separate, and a strong predilection for mixed education. He viewed, however, several of the clauses with great disapprobation. If its 10th and 11th clauses were not greatly modified in the committee he should be obliged to oppose this measure on its third reading.

Mr W. GLADSTONE agreed with Lord John Russell that the present was an imperfect measure; but insisted that its imperfection was owing to the very anomalous and distracted condition of Ireland. The question was not whether this was a perfect measure, but whether it was the best measure which could be devised to meet the present state of Ireland and its exigencies. He concurred with Lord John Russell in thinking that it would be a very great hardship to force a measure of this kind on the people of Ireland. Lord JOHN RUSSELL also thought it advisable that the Roman Catholic bishops of Ireland, and more especially Dr MURRAY, should be consulted on this subject. He had not yet heard that no communication had taken place between the government and the Roman Catholic bishops on this scheme of education; but he fully agreed with Lord J. Russell in asserting that considerable weight ought to be attached to the judgment of the Roman Catholic bishops on the adjustment of the principle and details of this measure. He then adverted at some length to the necessity and expediency, not only of communicating with the Roman Catholic bishops on such points, but also of renewing a direct diplomatic correspondence with the court of Rome, which this government carried on indirectly even at present. After defending the system of religious education now enforced at Oxford from the attacks and sneers which had been made upon it, he proceeded to contend that the system of mixed education adopted in University college, London, was much fitter for Ireland than it was for England; for the dangers of it were most likely to be experienced in England, where religious discipline was lax, than in Ireland, where, from the influence of the Roman Catholic religion, the religious discipline exercised over each individual of that persuasion was personally strict. He then justified the principles and details of the measure, and, in so doing, entered his emphatic protest against Sir R. Inglis's declaration that it was "a gigantic scheme of godless education." The bill contained a provision for religious education, so far as it was safe to do so; for it provided rooms in each of these colleges for theological lectures, which was an explicit admission of the efficacy of religious education. Nay, more, it provided facilities for the voluntary payment of professors to deliver such lectures.

Mr T. WYSE then pointed out in detail various improvements which he conceived might be made in the bill, and declared his intention of bringing them forward as distinct subjects for discussion whenever it got into committee. He objected to those clauses in the bill which gave to the Crown the power of appointing and removing the professors of those colleges, and contended that the state should provide in each of them for the endowment of a professor of theology, not of divinity.

Mr ACLAND must give his decided opposition to the measure.

Sir R. PEEL endeavoured to establish two points: first, the policy of establishing academical institutions in Ireland; and, next, the policy of educating together within their walls youths of different religious creeds. He proposed, on the part of the state, to provide in those institutions means of excellent education. He also proposed to provide for them professors of distinguished scientific attainments and of high moral character. But did he relegate religious education from them? No such thing. He agreed with Lord J. Russell that he would have pure secular instruction without any religious instruction rather, than no education at all; but still he thought that a mixture of secular with religious instruction was infinitely superior. But how was that mixture of education to be effected in a country distracted like Ireland by religious differences? Suppose that he (Sir R. Peel) had proposed to accomplish it, what would have been the consequence? Both Protestants and Catholics would have opposed it. Such being the case, the government had determined to invite the parents and friends of the youth to be educated in these new colleges to provide religious education for them; and he thought that such education would be provided for them better by their parents and friends than it could be by the government in the present condition of Ireland. He expressed the deep regret and surprise with which he had read that portion of the memorial of the Roman Catholic bishops in which they stated that a Roman Catholic student could not attend lectures on anatomy and geology given by Protestant professors without danger to his morals and his faith. After commenting for some time on that document, he proceeded to notice the objection which had been urged against this measure, because the professors were to be nominated by the crown. He believed that such a provision was at the first formation of these colleges absolutely necessary. Both the honour and the interest of the crown were involved in the appointment of the most competent persons

to these professorships. If these colleges were to be instituted in Connaught and in Munster, whose friendship would the government have to conciliate save that of the Roman Catholics? He thought that there should be exhibitions attached to these academical institutions, for the purpose of creating competition. Such exhibitions, in his opinion, tended much to promote sound learning and knowledge. It had been complained that he had not made a university in Ireland. It was enough, he thought, to form three colleges at first; but he admitted that his plan would be incomplete until they were incorporated into one university. If the plan were found to work well, then would be the time for considering whether their incorporation into a university should take place, and what power that university should have in conferring degrees. The crown could give a charter of incorporation without the necessity of the interference of parliament. These were the principles on which the government had come to the conclusion that it had a better chance of promoting a system of religious education acceptable to those for whose benefit it was intended by its present measure, than it would have by founding separate theological colleges, or by endowing theological professorships in each of them.

Mr M. J. O'CONNELL observed, that the amendment of Lord J. Manners raised the question whether they were to have in Ireland a mixed system of education or not. To that system he had always been attached; and, as this bill would promote it, he should give his vote in favour of its second reading.

Mr SHAW did not entirely approve of this measure; but he had not heard any of the gentlemen who opposed it propose a better substitute; and, therefore, considering the difficulty of the question, he did not feel himself justified in opposing the second reading.

After a few words from Sir V. BLAKE in favour of the bill,

The House divided, when the numbers were—for the amendment—ayes, 46; noes, 311. The amendment was therefore lost, and the bill read a second time.

MISCELLANEOUS.

PENAL LAWS AGAINST THE ROMAN CATHOLICS.—On Wednesday, Mr WATSON moved the second reading of the Catholic Relief bill, the object of which is to abrogate certain penal laws against the Roman Catholics in England, which remain unrepealed. Sir JAMES GRAHAM requested Mr Watson to postpone the second reading, because the criminal commissioners had taken into consideration not only the laws against the Roman Catholics in England, but all the laws affecting members of that faith in Scotland and Ireland, and Protestant Dissenters. Mr Watson urged that the bill should be read a second time, although the debate on it might be postponed till that day fortnight, Sir JAMES GRAHAM said that he should object to one part of the bill, which altered the provision in the Relief act of 1829, relating to the monastic orders. Eventually, however, the bill was read a second time, the discussion to be taken on going into committee that day fortnight.

DRAWBACK ON MALT.—On the same evening Mr STAFFORD O'BRIEN moved the second reading of his Malt Drawback bill, the object of which is to permit malt duty free, in order to fatten cattle. Mr CARDWELL read extracts of communications from scientific men, in order to show that the utility of malt for the purpose of fattening cattle was much overrated, as compared with barley, and that there were no means of protecting the revenue from the opportunity which would be afforded of converting the proposed duty-free malt to purposes of distillation. The bill would, in fact, be practically a repeal of the malt tax. Mr MILES advised Mr S. O'Brien to withdraw the bill. Lord HOWICK suggested that, to admit Egyptian beans and Indian corn duty free, for the purpose of fattening cattle, would effect all the objects desired, without raising any of the objections which encountered such a proposition as a drawback on malt. He wished the agricultural interest, to which he was proud to belong, would raise their minds above these petty attempts at special legislation. Mr ESCOTT characterised the bill as one of a series of delusive measures—he hoped it was the least and the last—brought forward for the purpose of conciliating the farmers, but which they saw through and despised. After some further conversation, Mr STAFFORD O'BRIEN, wishing that ministers would consult professors less and farmers more, withdrew the bill.

PREVENTION OF DEATHS BY FIRE.—In reply to Colonel WOOD, on Monday, Sir J. GRAHAM said the evidence at the late inquest (at Raggett's hotel) had not yet been officially reported to him. With reference to the policy of taking any precaution against fire in the police arrangements of this metropolis, that matter had been carefully considered by him some time ago, and, at his request, his noble friend at the head of the Woods and Forests had endeavoured to obtain from several foreign countries—from Paris, Vienna, and the United States—information as to the precautions taken in those countries. He confessed he had a strong impression that it would not be advisable to connect those precautions with the police, but that, as in Paris, a separate establishment should be created, whose duty it should be to take precautions against fire. His noble friend had not obtained all the information he desired, but when he should have obtained that information, it would be his duty, in conjunction with his colleagues, to consider of a substantive measure on the subject, and to present it to parliament.

STATE CHURCH INTOLERANCE.—Mr Hindley presented a petition from persons interested in New Zealand, complaining that a portion of land had been granted

to the New Zealand Company for the purposes of a public cemetery, which was used by Dissenters of all religious denominations, but that on the arrival of Dr Selwyn, the Bishop of New Zealand, interments there were interdicted to all but members of the established church. He wished to know if government had received any information on the subject. Mr Hors said he had no information on the subject, or as to any of the circumstances.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT OXFORD.—Mr BLACKSTONE read a letter from the censor of Christchurch, Oxford, as a reply to Sir J. Graham's remarks on Friday. His correspondent said that he had entered the university in 1827, and knew that a lecture was delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during term. This was the public provision for religious instruction made now; and it had been so for thirty years. Attendance at this lecture was made compulsory on all parties during their third term; and candidates for degrees were subjected to a very rigid examination in divinity, and instances of failure had occurred from deficiency of knowledge. Sir J. Graham said, that what he had described took place in 1810 and 1812.

MR SHARMAN CRAWFORD'S AMENDMENT.—The following is a list of the minority of thirty-three members of the House of Commons, who voted on Wednesday last for Mr Crawford's amendment for an extension of the suffrage:—

Walter Baine, H. F. Berkeley, M. J. Blake, R. J. Blewitt, E. P. Bouverie, W. D. Christie, Richard Cobden, John Collett, George Duncan, Thomas Duncombe, J. C. Dundas, Edward Ellice, Wynn Ellis, Ralph Etwall, John Fielden, Colonel Ferguson, T. C. Granger, Lord Hallyburton, Lord M. Hill, Henry Mitcalfe, T. A. Mitchell, Captain Pechell, Captain Plumridge, J. L. Ricardo, Lord E. Russell, H. W. Tancred, J. S. Trelawny, Charles Villiers, Thomas Wakley, H. Warburton, H. G. Ward, J. T. Wawn, H. R. Yorke. Tellers—W. S. Crawford, Dr Bowring.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, May 30th.

MAYNOOTH.—A large number of petitions were, as usual, presented against the Maynooth Endowment bill from all parts of the country, by the Bishop of Rochester, Earl Fitzhardinge, the Earl of Rosebery, the Bishop of Chester, and the Duke of Richmond; the Earl of Roden, the Bishops of Durham, St David's, Llandaff, and Winchester; three petitions to the same effect were presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury; seven by the Bishop of London; a vast number by the Bishop of Exeter; and seven by the Bishop of Norwich; the last prelate stating that he did not agree in the prayer of the petitions; by Lord Kinnaird from seven congregations of Wesleyan Methodists. Nine petitions to that effect were presented by Lord Lyttelton; forty-seven by the Earl of Winchilsea; four by the Bishop of St Asaph; several by the Bishop of Cashel, the Earl of Falmouth, Lord Feversham, and Lord Eldon. The Marquis of Breadalbane presented, in the whole, 168 petitions, with 22,356 signatures. Petitions in favour of the grant were presented by the Duke of Cleveland, the Earl of Clare, the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Stanley.

Petitions from the governors of the Foundling hospital and Christ's hospital, praying that they might be exempted from the operation of the Charitable Trusts bill, were presented.

Lord Ashley's Calico Print Works bill passed through committee; not without some opposition from Lord BROUHAM and Lord RADNOR to this eternal meddling with people's private affairs, and some exceptions from Lord CAMPBELL to the part interfering with adult labour. Its supporters were the Marquis of NORMANBY and the Duke of BUCLEUCH.

Lord DACRE introduced a bill to amend the game laws, which was read a first time.

POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.

Earl RADNOR moved the second reading of his Post-office bill.

The object of the bill (he said) was to regulate that practice, which, to the surprise of the public, had become notorious last year—he alluded to the practice at the Post-office of opening letters. Whatever opinion their lordships might entertain as to the propriety of the mode which he had suggested for the proper and due regulation of this practice, they would, he was sure, agree with him in his opinion, that the matter was at present in a very unsatisfactory state. Nobody knew what the law upon the subject was. Committees of both Houses had been appointed, during the last session, to examine into the matter. With respect to the law of the case, neither committee had given much information; but the committee of the House of Commons suggested, that the matter should be left on its present footing in point of law. But nobody exactly knew what was that footing.

He wished at least to have the law accurately defined and well known. He expressed a doubt whether the recent practices of the government would stand the test of law. He blamed the seesaw style in which the late reports made on the subject, by the committees of both houses of parliament, were drawn up. As to the power, it was his impression at first that it should be peremptorily withheld; but on subsequent consideration, and conversation with others, it appeared to be more expedient to regulate the mode of exercising it. That was the object of the bill of which he now moved the second reading; and if their lordships agreed with him in the principle of the measure, it would be in their power to make whatever alterations they thought necessary in committee.

Lord STANLEY accused the noble lord of not having read his bill; and proceeded to point out the inconsistencies which rendered it impracticable as a piece of legislation. Lord Radnor condemned the practice as immoral, yet he introduced a bill to

retain it and regulate it. The measure professed to have two objects—to define the law, and to impose restrictions on the practice; it did not define the law, but left it so undefined that it actually did not direct whether a warrant should be general or special for each letter; and the so-called restrictions would render the law that was to be merely restrictive positively inoperative; as, where it was required that letters should not be opened, except from information laid by some person in writing, whose name was afterwards to be given up, in order that he might be exposed to an action brought by the writer of the letter. Lord Stanley argued for the necessity of the power, with a view to the safety of the state. The bill would retain all the odium of the practice, while stripping it of its advantages. He moved that it be read a second time that day six months.

Lord DENMAN made a noble speech in favour of the bill. The question was whether the whole correspondence of the country was to be at the mercy of the Secretary of State because it might be convenient to ascertain the secrets of eight people per annum. He hoped the House would never hear that the crown had any prerogative for opening the letters of its subjects, for such a claim was unsupported by any legal proof. The statute of Anne was the first which compelled the proper transmission of letters, by making it penal not to deliver them. By one section of that act it was made penal for the postmaster to detain, delay, or open letters, with an exception if the act were done under a warrant from the Secretary of State. But was the state of the law so well defined that they should not apply their minds to alter it? On the contrary, if an action were brought against the postmaster for the offence, he did not know what was to protect him, except an inference from the statute of Anne.

He (Lord Denman) wanted to know on what principle the secretary of state acted. If he acted on proper principles, why should not parliament defend them instead of himself? If a warrant might run over several months, what was the limit as to whether eighty or ninety letters were opened under it, or eight or nine? He had argued the question entirely on the supposition that there had been no abuse whatever, and that no person, at least, now living, had acted in a manner that he would be ashamed publicly to confess; still they ought not to lose sight of the possibility that abuse might be committed. There had been unprincipled men in the office to which the exercise of the power was confined, and there might be again; but, even if that were not the case, still there were underlings who might act for their own benefit by playing *High Life below Stairs*, with which we were entertained in the summer of last year, when letters were opened referring to the Derby stakes (a laugh). It was well known that an unfortunate description had been given, by a person high in the Post office, of the morals and proceedings of the persons employed in it, which he (Lord Denman) was sorry to say his experience in the courts of justice fully confirmed. Undoubtedly, there has been a great proportion of persons employed there who had abused their trust; and he did not know that they would be induced to discontinue their practices as long as they observed that the law permitted such practices by their superiors. 1844 was the first year that we had seen the opening of foreign letters for the benefit of foreign states, quite *bona fide* done for that purpose, and for avoiding embarrassment in our relations with these states. The practice was new, and, as he thought, dangerous, and utterly unknown to the people of England (hear, hear).

Lord BROUHAM should content himself with defending the Committees. First of all, they had been charged with not defining the law; but on consulting the report it would be found they had said "the power was of immemorial usage," and had been recognised by repeated statutes. He knew of no better foundation than this, and nine-tenths of the Constitution rested on no better authority. His Lordship proceeded to defend the Committees, and then argued in favour of maintaining the power on account of its use in the detection of crime, and the preservation of peace in the country.

Lord CAMPBELL said the question was, whether the law was to remain in its present state, or whether an attempt should be made to regulate it? For his part he thought it would be better to abolish the power altogether; but if it must be retained, contrary to all notions of honour and propriety, it was absolutely necessary that it should be legalised and defined.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said, that though he was sorry to differ from the LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, it was impossible to doubt that the power in question was a legal power legally exercised; it had been recognised over and over again in courts of justice and acts of Parliament, as was clear from the facts stated in the reports of the Committees.

After a few words from Lord NORMANBY in opposition to the bill, their lordships divided—for the second reading 9: against it, 55: majority, 46. The House then adjourned.

Monday, June 2nd.

THE MAYNOOTH BILL.

The presentation of a vast mass of petitions against this measure occupied a considerable part of the evening. Petitions against the bill were presented by the Duke of Buckingham, from Birmingham, signed by 10,000 persons; by the Marquis of Salisbury; by the Earl of Harewood, signed by 20,000 persons; by the Earl of Winchilsea (162), from places in Norfolk, Suffolk, Kent, &c.; by the Bishop of Rochester; by the Earl of Clancarty; by the Bishop of Cashel; by Lord Denman, from Birmingham, signed by the mayor and corporation, and from places in Derbyshire; by the Marquis of Normanby; by Lord Beaumont, Lord Kenyon (3), the Earl of Bandon, the Earl of Besborough, the Earl of Charleville (9), Lord Lilford, the Earl of Hardwicke (4), the Earl of Roden (26); by the Duke of Richmond,

from the General Assembly of the church of Scotland, and six others; by the Earl of Falmouth (7), the Earl of Chichester (several), the Marquis of Ely (3), the Earl of Scarborough (7), the Earl of Malmesbury; Earl Brownlow; by the Bishop of Exeter, from Exeter and six other places; and a great number by the Duke of Newcastle, the Bishop of Winchester, the Marquis of Downshire, the Bishop of Norwich (who said he could not concur in the prayer of the petitioners); the Bishops of London, Oxford, Lichfield, St David's, Durham, Gloucester, Lincoln, and Bangor; Earl Fitzwilliam, the Earl of Burlington, Lord Wharncliffe, and the Duke of Buccleuch. The Marquis of Breadalbane presented 67 petitions, with upwards of 8,000 signatures, against the endowment of Maynooth; and 21 petitions, with 4,622 signatures, against all state endowments of religion, and therefore opposing the grant to Maynooth; one of the latter, from the inhabitants of Aberdeen, had upwards of 2,000 signatures. The Earl of Eldon, Lord Farnham, and Lord Feversham, also each presented a large number. Petitions in favour of the bill were presented by Lord Stanley, from the principal landed proprietors of Mayo; by the Duke of Wellington, from Belfast; by Lord Sydney; by the Lord Chancellor, from the old Presbyterians of Antrim; and by the Marquis of Lansdowne.

The Duke of WELLINGTON then rose to move the second reading of the bill, and took a review of Irish affairs from the time of the reformation down to the year 1793, when the penal laws were repealed. The noble duke had not proceeded far when a curious interruption took place:—

The Duke of NEWCASTLE: My lords, I rise to order. I beg to apologise to the noble duke and to the House for attempting to interrupt him, but preliminary to this discussion I would put this question to the noble duke—whether he has the Queen's permission to make this proposition to the House [cries of "Order, order"]?

Lord BROUHAM: This is not speaking to order [hear, hear]. This is the most disorderly thing I ever witnessed in my experience of parliament. The noble duke has not been speaking to order. This ought to have been after the speech of the noble duke (Wellington) [hear, hear].

The Duke of NEWCASTLE again rose, amidst loud cries of "Order," and said: I wish to put the question, as it affects the Act of Succession, as it affects individuals, and as it affects the nation ["Order, order"].

Lord BROUHAM: I never will sit here and allow any man to say that we have not a right to enter on, to continue, and to close any discussion without the leave of the Crown. The leave of the Crown is required only in one case, but it may be given at any period of the discussion of the measure, and that is, when such measure affects the revenues or the patrimonial interests of the Crown.

The Duke of NEWCASTLE, having felt it his duty to make the interruption, must say he thought the present was a most improper discussion.

The Duke of WELLINGTON, resuming: If I had heard the question—I am afraid my infirmity prevented my hearing it exactly at first—I should certainly have had no objection to answer the noble duke any question that he may put, though certainly he put his question in a disorderly manner; but I did not hear it.

The noble duke then referred to the history of the establishment of the College during the lord-lieutenancy of the late Marquis Camden. The necessity for educating the Roman Catholics at home arose from the state of the continent at the time, over which the triumphant armies of the French republic were then marching; and now that a different aspect of affairs had happily arisen, the government considered it wise and proper to continue a system of domestic education to the Roman Catholic priests who were to administer to the great majority of the Irish people the rites of the Roman Catholic church.

He admitted that the expectations indulged in on the first establishment of the institution had not been realised, but this he attributed to the scanty means placed at its disposal. The bill before the House increased those means, and he hoped in future to see an improvement in the education, manners, and habits of the students. They had supported this institution for half a century; during 20 years of that time the country had been engaged in war. Whatever might be the opinion as to the legal effect of the decision of their lordships on the writ of error in September last, he believed there was no man in his senses who now doubted that it was absolutely hopeless and impossible to carry any measure by violence or tumult in Ireland against the wishes of the government and parliament of this country. Standing thus intrenched, and without any danger whatever pressing on them—knowing as they did that the great body of persons engaged in tumultuous proceedings two years ago were Roman Catholics, it would look somewhat like persecution if, having supported this institution so long, they now withdrew from it the patronage of the state. He trusted they would give their unanimous consent to the bill.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE looked upon this as a political, not a religious question; and as such, he contended it was in every sense one of the most conciliatory and wise measures that had been proposed for many years in parliament. The government deserved the gratitude of the country for having brought it forward; and he hoped it would be eminently successful in that country for the advantage of which it was specially designed.

Lord RODEN then rose to move the amendment of which he had given notice, for a select committee to inquire into the character of the education given at Maynooth, with the avowed object of getting rid of the bill. By a reference to the text books and many details in the history and conduct of the institution, the noble Earl maintained that the system of instruction given there had anti-social and disloyal tendencies. To ascertain that fact he proposed a committee of inquiry, and the people of England,

who had petitioned so largely against this bill, would not be satisfied if investigation were refused. Sir R. Peel himself had, in 1840, declared that he should vote for the grant with much more satisfaction if there was an inquiry, which the principals of the college should be the first to promote, "when so strong an impression prevailed that their system of education stood in need of improvement." If inquiry were thought necessary when the grant was annual, how much more now, when the endowment was to be permanent? This bill was considered by the Protestants of Ireland as a heavy blow to their interests.

The Bishop of LONDON thought the noble Earl had made out a case for inquiry with reference to the bill itself. After the most careful and anxious consideration, he found himself under the painful necessity of refusing his assent to it, as involving a violation of one of the most fundamental principles of the constitution, while it held out no prospect of such advantage as might be thought to justify it on the grounds of expediency. The principles taught at Maynooth were calculated to make the priests democrats in politics, and in the church intolerant bigots. They were at once inconsistent with the faithful discharge of duty to the state, and utterly incompatible with the maintenance of peace in a commonwealth composed of persons having different opinions. It was introducing a new and dangerous principle into the constitution—a principle which must eventually end in the separation of the church from the state:

The endowment of two antagonist churches—for antagonist churches they were in the strongest sense of the term—in the same country, seemed to him to go a great way to the rejection and abandonment of the principle which alone justified the endowment of any; and he believed that their lordships were in great danger by passing this measure of sanctioning a principle that would rivet upon the church a chain of evil from which they would not be able hereafter to set it free [hear, hear]. The consequence of this measure would be a severance of all connexion between the church and state in Ireland, and, he feared, at no distant period, in this country also [hear, hear]. That was very clearly perceived by those in other countries, who saw the strife that was now waging here between principle and expediency [hear, hear]. They were not blinded by those personal interests which were so apt to lead to error; they could take a calm survey of the consequences of this measure without looking to any great depth.

In proof of this, the Bishop read a passage from the *Anti-Jesuit*, of the 19th of May, a paper published at Lausanne, in Switzerland, the editor of which was hostile to the principle of all religious establishments, and who therefore exulted at our recognising a principle which might lead to that result here. This was the first link that had been forged to tie together the state and the Roman Catholic church. He could not consent to any measure which would make the college of Maynooth an integral part of the constitution. He gave credit to the pure and charitable motives of the government in bringing forward this measure. He could well understand their embarrassment when they turned their eye to the map of Ireland; but the right principle on which, in his opinion, that country should be governed, was this—never, for any consideration, to do what was clearly wrong in principle; to do their best to discover what was right, to follow it out honestly and fearlessly, trusting for the issue to the Supreme Disposer of events, who, in accordance with his written word, would deal favourably with that nation which upheld his own truth, or at least did nothing to impede its progress.

The Earl of ST GERMAN, Lord BEAUMONT (Catholic), and Lord CLIFFORD, vindicated the bill; the Duke of MANCHESTER and the Bishop of CASHEL opposed it. The last-named speaker said he would rather that all endowments were done away with, than that error should be endowed.

This policy must end in the endowment and establishment of the Roman Catholic clergy [hear, hear]; and then they would have the unsightly spectacle of the state endowing two antagonist principles [hear, hear]. Now, he would much rather join in the spirit of our countrymen of old, who, when they could not enjoy that toleration which in these days they would have received, went across the Atlantic voluntarily to support their religion—he would, he repeated, far prefer a universal voluntary principle, and the putting away of all establishments, to that which was the child, not of the pious Puritans of old, but of infidels of later times, viz., the endowing of two or three religions because they believed in none [hear, hear].

The debate was, on the motion of the Earl of HARDWICKS, adjourned till this day.

The committee of the House of Commons, of which Lord Worsley is chairman, have decided against the atmospheric principle, by throwing out the Northumberland railway bill.

RAILWAY SPEED.—The distance between London and Birmingham was lately performed in one hour and 45 minutes. 110 miles in 105 minutes!—*Railway Chronicle*.

THE HIGHEST BIDDER.—The most specific suggestion in Lord John Russell's multifarious address last night was on the corn laws. The only addition he has made to the public stock of information on this subject is, that he has descended from his 8s. fixed duty of 1841, to 4s., or perhaps 5s., or perhaps 6s. It is difficult to comprehend why his original proposition should be so slightly corrected for so doubtful a result. As his Lordship is now rather winning adherents than choosing a course, he may prefer to content himself with the least possible show of change. Let him, however, save himself the trouble of an exact decision of a point which evidently costs so much labour. Peel will underbid him. "The day will come, th' inevitable day," when Peel will make a clean holocaust of the corn

laws, offering up what the Irish Catholics call an "unqualified and uncontaminated gift" to the free traders. He will not do things by halves. Cannot Lord J. Russell see this in time? Henceforth it is his fate to be behind-hand in the market. While he is haggling for his odd shillings, and thinking to allure the purchaser by the doubtful tone of his denials, a more desperate and determined salesman interposes, and throws him out of the market.—*Times*.

RAILWAY TRAVELING.—The *Morning Journal* says, "We wish our English companies would take a lesson from our Irish brethren. On the Dublin and Kingstown line no train starts to which a first, second, and third-class series of carriages is not attached. By this means the poor man is not obliged to wait, and waste his valuable time, till the company he supports chooses to supply him with a conveyance. The second-class carriages are fitted up, not only with comfort, but elegance—the seats are well cushioned, and the sides either open or enclosed, according to the option of the traveler. And what is the consequence of this arrangement? Have the trivial temporary expenses incurred by the securing these advantages, and so grudgingly withheld by the English companies, crippled or retarded its success? When the price of shares, on which £100 has been paid, is quoted at £250, we think that the question is easily disposed of; and we ask, is it not a disgrace that a country whose resources are so limited as those of Ireland, should set an example of munificence to a nation that boasts of its wealth like England? Satisfactory as the accommodation may be on some of our own lines, we say it with experience and with truth, that in no one are arrangements carried out so considerately or extensively as on either of the Irish railways."

SENSE AND Nonsense.—At a meeting of landowners and tenant farmers recently held at Stafford, for the purpose of petitioning parliament for protection to agriculture, the following conversation took place between a farmer and Lord Ingestre:

"He (Lord Ingestre) agreed with the seconder of the resolution, that if rents were entirely abolished, he did not think they would materially benefit the tenant.—A Farmer: Try it, my lord.—Viscount Ingestre: Perhaps you would wish the landlords to be entirely without money; if so, what are we to do?—A Farmer: Same as we do, my lord—make shift" [loud laughter]. Of course, there was loud laughter. Ha! ha! Who ever heard so ridiculous a speech as this farmer's? The idea of a nobleman making shift! The man will be the death of us. Ho! ho! We cannot help laughing at such an absurd notion, even on paper. How would Mr Hodges, or Joskins, or whatever the farmer's name is, have a nobleman make shift? Perhaps he would wish him to alter his family livery, put his servants into some common dress, and go without hair-powder. To economise, like a person of limited means, in wax-lights, and even to study when and where he might burn composition instead. Actually to regard expense in giving a dinner-party or a *soirée*. Positively to consider the price of furniture. Absolutely to stint his lady in jewelery. Possibly this bumpkin would expect him to reduce his stud, or put down one or more of his carriages. Nay—for plebeian audacity has no limits—we should not wonder if he dares to think, as something not altogether out of the question, that a nobleman might give up his box at the Opera! What then would become of the splendour of our country—as exhibited in Rotten row? What of music and the ballet—for how could our exotic *artistes* sing or dance in case of a reduction of their scanty salaries? Make shifts, indeed! As if our nobility were like distressed needlewomen. Let us contrast this rustic's senseless speech with the self-evident wisdom of Lord Ingestre's speech:—"If rents were entirely abolished I do not think they would materially benefit the tenant." Of course not. What advantage would it be to the tenant to put the few trifling thousands which he pays his landlord into his own pocket?—*Punch*.

MORTALITY IN ENGLAND.—REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S REPORT.—The season to which the return refers (January, February, and March, 1845) was remarkable for its severity: the temperature fell lower than had ever before been observed and recorded in the neighbourhood of the metropolis. The mortality was proportionately high: 43,874 deaths were registered: 43,958 had been registered in the last quarter of 1844, and 38,784 in the September quarter of that year. The increase of deaths was therefore upwards of 11,000. In the unhealthy countries of the world, the mortality is highest in the hottest months—and this was the case formerly in London; but the greatest number of deaths now invariably happens in the coldest quarter of the year. The mortality was below the average in the milder climate of the south-western parts of the island, and the coal districts of the north: it was highest on the eastern coast, in the metropolis, and in North Wales. . . . Few of the victims of the small-pox had been vaccinated; vaccination had not even been attempted in a great majority of cases; and thus, in one city (Norwich), between 200 and 300 persons were suffered to perish in three months—(others were blinded, maimed, and deformed for life)—through negligence of the parents in the application of the protection discovered by Jenner, and placed at the disposal of all by the legislature. The high mortality of the quarter was no doubt due in great part to the extreme coldness of the season. The mean temperature of the 13 weeks at Greenwich was 35.4. The temperature of the corresponding week, on an average of 25 years, was 38.9, according to Mr Henry's observations.

£2,357 has already been subscribed in Manchester towards the construction of some sort of monument to the late Dr Dalton.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

The *Times* states that Mr Macaulay is engaged on a History of England.

The greatest alarm has been excited in the military circles by her Majesty having chosen the period of 1740-50 for her *bal costume*, as at that time neither whiskers nor moustaches were worn, and those facial appendages will therefore have to be shorn.—*Times*.

POOR CREATURE.—We have often heard the Sister Isle called "Poor Old Ireland." Poor Ireland, it seems, is so very old, that she has now lost the use of her members.—*Punch*.

MANUFACTURE OF BRUSSELS CARPETS BY STEAM POWER.—This has long been a desideratum among manufacturers, and has been accomplished by Mr Sievere F.R.S., the sculptor.

LEARNED LEGISLATORS!—One of the "select members," in a railway committee, last week, on the second day asked the counsel for a bill, "what was the meaning of a gradient;" and a Lord of the Treasury is reported to have been innocent of the meaning of a "curve."—*Morning Chronicle*.

In the year 1843, eight million one thousand four hundred and forty-nine pounds, one shilling, and fourpence, was spent by the people of this kingdom in tobacco! a tolerable round sum to "end in smoke." If the weed had been worked into pigtail rather more than half an inch thick, it would have formed a line 99,470 miles long—long enough to go nearly five times round the world!

A PERILOUS PRECAUTION.—Pitt was proceeding to dine with the Lord Mayor of London, and, being unpopular at the time, was hissed and hooted. A gentleman in full dress, a joint of the minister's tail, observed one of the mobility looking at him with his hand full of mud. "I'm not Mr Pitt! I'm not Mr Pitt!" he vociferated from his carriage. "Who said you was, spooney?" contemptuously exclaimed the fellow, at the same time emphatically flinging his handful in the gentleman's teeth.

In the *Suffolk Chronicle* of Saturday we find an advertisement of "The Ipswich Phono-Press, or Phonographic Miscellany," the object of which is to supply to phonographers a medium for interchange of thought, and students a means of acquiring a facility of reading, and for improving themselves in this popular and highly important art. It is printed by an anastatic press.

The schoolmaster of the Leicester union-workhouse, being occupied from twelve to thirteen hours a day, seven days in the week, has thrown up his berth: he cannot bear the labour. By how much "wages" was it "sweetened?" He had nine shillings and sevenpence halfpenny a week! Such is the estimation in which "the schoolmaster," the most important member of society, is held in England!

RATHER AWKWARD.—Gentlemen who are members of the learned associations usually affix the initials of their society to their names. A new medical society has lately been formed, called the Association of General Practitioners in England; and every unfortunate wight who belongs to it will, consequently, style himself a M.A.G.P.I.E.—*Liverpool Albion*.

A needy landowner, advertising in the *Morning Post*, offers for sale the "shooting over about 5,000 acres of land, nearly 500 of which are covers full of game." The purchaser may "board and lodge with the family," and enjoy the luxuries of "wines, ices, fruit, billiards, a pianoforte, two carriages, three horses, and a pew in the church!" Alas for the tenants of the pauper poverty-stricken preserver!

THE LATE SOLAR ECLIPSE.—The edge of the moon during the eclipse was particularly examined with a high power, and it was observed to be serrated nearly throughout the whole visible extent, something like the edge of a fine saw, but not so regularly, for some of the projections were much higher and longer than others, thus corroborating all our previous knowledge of the moon's surface, and showing how greatly irregular that surface must be, in order that the irregularities should become visible to us.—*Manchester Guardian*.

A new era in journalism appears to have arrived in France. The *Journal des Débats*, has assumed, and on the 1st of July *La Presse*—already nearly as large—will assume, the (single) form of the *Times*, being about eight times the size of the Paris journals of 1820.

ALL INSIDE MY HAT.—A hatter in New York has had an immense hat manufactured, which he carts about the streets with a band of music inside of it.

Few persons are aware that from 1700 to 1844, there are on record 161 shocks of earthquakes in England, 138 in Scotland, and 17 in Wales.

The widow of one of the brothers Bandiera died on the 15th at Venice, aged only 27. Her death is attributed chiefly to grief at the melancholy fate of her husband.

Several alterations have just been made in the French military. The Gallic cock, which succeeded the imperial eagle on the front of the shakos or caps, has itself been succeeded by the royal crown, surmounted by a star and a cross. This alteration has excited much indignation both among the people and military.

TO GENTLEMEN THAT "CAN'T WAIT."—A friend of ours courted a lady for twenty-eight years, and then married her. She turned out to be a perfect virago, but died in two years after the wedding—"Now," said our friend in a self-gratulating tone, "see what I have escaped by a long courtship."—*North American Messenger*.

We learn from Brunswick that the reigning duke, in compliance with the unanimous recommendation of both Chambers of the State, has issued a decree abolishing entirely corporal punishment in his army.

Literature.

Christian Baptism: an Inquiry into the Scriptural Evidence of its Nature; the Mode, Subjects, and Design of the Rite; and the Meaning of the Term. By J. H. GODWIN. Snow, Pater-noster row. 1845. pp. 410.

WHEN we remember the proportion of regard paid to baptism in the Christian system, as to a solemn and significant ordinance, but not certainly as to an all-important one, it is impossible not to regret the prominence given to it in our nonconformist controversies.

"Semper ego auditor tantum, nunquamve reponam
Vexatus toties?"

We beg to be understood as conveying no dispraise of the volume before us. Whatever the opinions as to the question itself, this production cannot fail to be regarded as able, learned, and laborious; conducting the controversy with philosophical calmness, and submitting, certainly, some new points to public attention. The papers first appeared in the *Congregational Magazine* for 1841-1843, where they excited considerable attention. The following is the arrangement of the volume:—Part I. The mode of baptism—true and false principles—general remarks on scripture baptisms—Jewish baptisms—John's baptism—Christian baptism—instances of the rite—baptism by the Spirit—baptism of the Christian life—the symbolical meaning and character of the rite. Part II. The subject of baptism—the design and subjects of Jewish rites—design and subjects of John's baptism—believer's baptism—infant baptism. Part III. Baptismal regeneration—direct scripture evidence—indirect scripture evidence—objections—baptism of the church of the fathers—conclusion.

From the latter part of the volume, which treats of baptismal regeneration, we extract a passage which will give a favourable opinion of the author's style:—

"Most systems of religion have some peculiar features by which they are easily distinguished from others. This is especially the case with that system which is exhibited in the pages of the New Testament, of which our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is both the author and the subject. Its general features are so evident that they cannot be mistaken; though many inferior portions may be misunderstood. And, consequently, we find that, amid innumerable diversities of opinion respecting the meaning of particular texts, there is but one opinion among persons intellectually and morally capable of judging, respecting the grand features of this, the latest and best manifestation of God to the human race. That the gospel is a revelation of the spirituality of the divine nature—of the perfect rectitude and mercifulness of him who is the creator, governor, saviour, and father of mankind—none can doubt. That it declares sin—moral evil, every kind of wickedness, to be the one thing in his creatures which God hates and condemns; and righteousness—moral good, every kind of virtue—to be the one thing he loves and approves—is equally evident. . . . In every other department of the works of God, there is an obvious correspondence between the commencement of any kind of life and its subsequent progress. The life of that which is material springs from material life, and is nourished by what is similar to its source. Intellectual life is called forth by the communication of knowledge; and, only by the means through which they were at first developed, can perception, memory, and reason be improved. The sensibility of the mind to the grace and loveliness of nature and of art can only be excited by the presentation of beauty; and it is fostered by that which has awakened life. The affections which give so great a charm to man's character, and so much happiness to his earthly existence, can only be produced by their appropriate objects, and grow up under their influence. The moral nature of man is quickened by the presentation of the moral good that is to be chosen, and the moral evil that is to be refused; and only as the thoughts, affections, and will are occupied with that which conscience approves, can the life of conscience be maintained. Surely, then, that highest spiritual life, which consists in knowing, honouring, trusting, loving, and obeying, our Saviour God—in copying and enjoying the perfect excellency of the supreme good—must, in like manner, begin in a way consonant to its nature, and to the means of its preservation, progress, and perfection.

"Neither the life of the plant and the animal, nor the life of thought, taste, affection, and conscience, can be produced by the use of lifeless matter. The statement that they were so produced would be deemed hardly worthy of consideration. Is not the statement still less intelligible and reasonable, that the life of the soul—by which it is united to God, and tends to him as its author and its end—which is the commencement of perfect holiness and eternal blessedness, in his likeness and favour—that this life should be produced by the water which a man's hands pour, and the words which a man's lips utter; and that even where there is no prayer, or faith, or piety, in the administrator of the rite, and no consciousness of good or evil in the recipient? . . . Can that which is moral and spiritual in its nature, its objects, and all its means of improvement, originate with that which is material?"—pp. 383-385.

Tahiti: containing a Review of the Origin, Character, and Progress of French Roman Catholic Efforts for the Destruction of English Protestant Missions in the South Seas. Translated from the French of MARK WILKS. Snow. 1844. pp. 134.

THOSE who desire to be made acquainted with the facts connected with the grievous outrages in the Pacific, will find this the best pamphlet on the subject. It is an elaborate digest of all the information which can be obtained, and contains far more than has yet been published.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *The Doctrine of Original Sin*. By GEORGE PAYNE, LL.D.
2. *The Mirror of the Gospel*. By J. R. BALME.
3. *The Family Choir*.
4. *Puseyism*. Addressed to all who either promote or proscribe Puseyism.
5. *The New Englander*. April, 1845.
6. *The Pastor's Office and the People's Duty*. By JOHN SIBREE.
7. *The Common Weal*.
8. *The Pilgrim's Legacy*.
9. *Polities of the New Testament*.
10. *Tracts and Treatises of John de Wycliffe*, D.D.
11. *History of Christ's Universal Church*. By the Rev. HENRY STEBBING, D.D.
12. *Christ the Christian's God and Saviour*. By the Rev. JAMES SPENCE, M.A.
13. *Bliss not Riches*. By E. KING.
14. *A Short Reply to a Long Speech on the Maynooth Question*. By ENEAS MACDONNELL.
15. *Political Dictionary*. Part 6.

Religious Intelligence.

THE BAPTIST UNION.

(From the *Leeds Times*.)

THE annual meetings of the Baptist Union, the name under which the association of Baptist churches throughout the country is known, have been held in South Parade chapel, Leeds, during the present week, and have been numerously attended by ministers and delegates from various parts of the kingdom, including some of the most eminent men in connexion with the Baptist denomination. The proceedings of the Union have been of an important character, both as regards the interests of the denomination itself, and also with reference to some of the questions which are at present agitating the entire religious community of England. This will be seen from the following resolutions, which, together with some others, were adopted at the meetings:—

1. "That, while the Union acknowledge, with the liveliest gratitude to God, the increase with which he has mercifully favoured the denomination during the past year, they contemplate the state of the churches at large with anxious doubt of their spiritual prosperity; they are especially concerned to learn that, from a calculation formed from returns of more than five hundred churches, it may be probably inferred, that more than one-third of the churches throughout the whole denomination have had no clear increase, and that nearly one-third of them have suffered diminution; and that they charge it upon themselves, and earnestly beseech their brethren, to abound in labour and in prayer for the revival of the Lord's work in our midst.

2. "That the Union regard with deep dissatisfaction the unwillingness of the British government, as manifested by successive ministers of state, to relieve from the parliamentary grant those portions of the Protestant Dissenters which, by means of organisations entitled to represent them, have repeatedly declared it to be unacceptable and displeasing; that, under these circumstances, they hold it important and indispensable that the Commons' House of parliament should be divided on the vote; and that the committee be instructed to convey to John Bright, Esq., M.P., the respectful and earnest request of the Union, that he will take upon himself the responsibility of doing so. That a petition be presented, on behalf of this Union, to the Commons' House of parliament, praying for the cessation of the parliamentary grant, in so far as the Baptist denomination is interested therein. A form of petition was then read and adopted.

3. "That the Union deeply sympathises in the hostility which has been so strongly manifested to the bill for the incorporation and endowment of the Roman Catholic college of Maynooth, which is now before parliament, on the ground of further extension and application of the principle of supporting religion by the patronage and resources of the state, to which they strenuously object in all its forms; and that they find it an additional reason for condemning the principle itself, and for seeking, by all legitimate means, the entire separation of religion from state patronage and endowment.

4. "That the Baptist Union most cordially recommend to the churches the society now called the 'Hanserd Knollys Society, for the publication of the works of the early English and other Baptist authors,' as worthy of their support and encouragement; but at the same time would suggest the propriety of selecting a name for the society more generally understood, and more expressive of its object.

5. "That the members of this Union now assembled in session, in reviewing the greatly increased exertions that have been made during the last few years in the building and alteration of chapels, and the large amount annually expended, deem it important to call the attention of the churches to the adoption of some improved mode of erection, which shall, as far as practicable, combine all the advantages of economy, commodiousness, and elegance.

"That, to facilitate this object, it be referred to the Committee to use their best exertions to prepare a manual on the subject of chapel building, which shall especially contain practical directions in reference to choice of ground, style of building, plans, estimates and contracts, foundation, strength, entrances, mode of lighting by day and night, roof, pewing, baptisteries, and school rooms, with a full statement of those things which ought to be particularly observed or avoided in such erections."

PUBLIC MEETING ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.

The public meeting of the Union was held in the South Parade chapel, on Wednesday evening, the Rev F. A. Cox, D.D., LL.D., in the chair. It was numerously attended, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings, which were opened shortly after six o'clock, with singing and prayer.

The CHAIRMAN, after some introductory observations, expressive of the gratification he felt in coming to Leeds, and his peculiar pleasure in meeting with his old friend—old as a friend, though not as a man, Mr Giles—proceeded to say that many things

had been mentioned during the meetings that had been held in the course of the day, which were calculated to excite deep emotion, and especially the fact that came out from the statistical reports that were given respecting the general state of the denomination in connexion with the Union. It appeared that there was much to mourn over. The increase during the past year has not been such as they could have desired. There had, in fact, been a comparative diminution—he meant, a diminution compared with the increase of some former years (hear, hear). He was pleased to think, however, that there had been no desire manifested by any of their brethren to conceal this fact, while at the same time no apathy existed with respect to it; but, on the contrary, it had roused their minds to a state of eager inquiry, to ascertain what might be done beneficially to alter this state of things, and to enable them to take a new start in the career of moral and spiritual improvement (hear, hear). Having touched upon one or two other topics in connexion with their present meeting, the chairman concluded by expressing a hope that the divine blessing would attend the meetings of the Union, and that the influences that would emanate from them, would tend to strengthen and extend the interests of religion.

After a few words from the Rev. Mr POTTINGER, of Bradford,

The Rev. Mr EVANS, of Scarborough, addressed the meeting, and directed his observations principally to set forth the claims and objects of the Hanserd Knollys Society, and to vindicate the excellence and extent of early Baptist literature. He claimed for Leonard Bushe, a Baptist citizen, the honour of being the first, in modern times, to promulgate the broad principle that the legislature and executive of the country had no right to interfere with the church of Christ (applause).

The Rev. C. STOVEL, of London, in an eloquent speech, expatiated on the advantages which resulted from the association of the churches together in the Baptist Union. For a long time it had been a source of very great grief that one class had been torn off by the term "general," and another by the term "particular;" one by the term "high," and another by the term "low;" and so on with other designations: so as to give rise to the idea that they, the advocates of the voluntary principle, the republicans of the school of Christ, were a rope of sand that never could be blended. He took this Society and held it up to the face of the world, and maintained before all society that the assertion was a slander [applause]. The men that were free were the men that could truly unite [applause].

The Rev. Mr BIRRELL, of Liverpool, adverting to the fact of the churches in connexion with the Union not having made satisfactory progress during the past year, said there was great difficulty in making any suggestion for the improvement of this state of things. The times on which we were fallen were very peculiar. They were times in which ministers of the gospel must take a very large part in insisting publicly on the recognition of great general principles, affecting their liberties as subjects, as well as their freedom as Christians, and he deemed it essential that they should have amongst them men who, like Baxter and other great men of an earlier period, could combine the most earnest public spirit with the most fervent personal devotedness to God [applause].

The Rev. J. H. HINTON, one of the secretaries of the Union, made some statements as to the progress which had actually taken place in the churches during the past year:—

The number of new churches within the year was fourteen; the number of chapels erected or enlarged within the year was forty-one. From the returns of the Association, it appeared that, in 967 churches, there had been a clear increase of members during the year of 4,856; giving a clear increase, upon an average to each church, of five members. Now, though this rate of increase was not deemed satisfactory, yet it was right to state that these returns did not present their denomination as making any less rate of increase than any other denomination during the same period, whose statistical returns afforded any ground of calculation. He did not think that either the Methodist or the Congregational body, or any body concerning which they had any means of forming an estimate, advanced at a rate equally rapid. The most discouraging view to be taken of the average increase was this—that it was a less rapid rate of increase than had appeared in the Baptist congregations for some years past [hear, hear]. Some years since, it was three and three and a half members; then it rose gradually to five, six, eight; till, in 1841, it was ten members average clear increase to each church. They might have hoped that it would have gone on increasing; but since 1841, the rate had gradually diminished, till eight, six, and now five, was the annual average increase to each church.

Next year, according to the same rate, it might be less. There was another view of these returns which was interesting. It appeared, not that the churches generally had had a moderate increase, but that some had had a large increase, and others a very small increase. He gave some details in illustration of this statement, and then proceeded to remark on the effect which the knowledge of the circumstances laid before them ought to have, at once in humbling them in their own estimation, and in stimulating them to more strenuous and determined exertions.

After alluding to various other topics of a public nature, he detailed the proceedings of the Union during its former meetings of that day. Mr Hinton stated the annual expenses of the Union to be only about £150; but though so small, they had found some difficulty in raising it, and their Treasurer was at present £20 in advance. He concluded by an appeal to the liberality of the meeting on behalf of the Society.

Mr JAMES RICHARDSON, of Leeds, then addressed the meeting. He alluded to the observations of Mr

Birrell, with respect to the union of public spirit with personal piety, and remarked that it became them to inquire, whether it was not the arrangement of Providence, that their religion and their politics became blended together for the purpose of accomplishing great purposes for the church of Christ. He made some remarks on the oneness and equality of brethren in Christ's church, and then passed on to some of the questions now agitating the community, animadverting with some severity on the conduct of those members of the House of Commons who had supported the Maynooth Endowment bill, and especially the free traders, who, though for free trade in commerce, were against it in religion. While on this subject, he mentioned that a Lancashire gentleman, who had subscribed £100 two successive years to the Free Traders' fund, had declared that they should have no more of his money. He (Mr Richardson) urged the great importance of the electoral body not voting, at any future election, for any candidate, who would not support the separation of church and state; and maintained that though this course of policy might for a time send a large majority of tories to the House, it would enable the advocates of the voluntary principle to get a number, though it might be a small number, of members to represent their principles, and he believed the result would ultimately be, that such views of their principles would be laid before the public, as would lead to their ultimate extension and adoption [hear and applause].

The Rev. J. E. GILES next addressed the meeting in an eloquent speech. He expressed the joy and satisfaction he felt at the Union holding its meetings in Leeds, and the delight he experienced in meeting with so many of his friends and brethren in the ministry, from distant parts of the country. After pointing out the various advantages resulting from the Union, he proceeded to allude to the general state of the churches. It had been said that they were in a low state. He maintained that they were not so. Was it a low state to increase by 5,000 members in the year [hear, hear]? He wished it had been five hundred thousand, or five millions, but they were not decreasing. They had increased 5,000 in the year, and they were now mourning over it—5,000 immortal souls plucked from the burning [applause]. They would not hang their harps upon the willows [hear]. Heavenly harps had been strung over those immortal souls, and they would catch the song and let go back the praise [applause]. He then referred to the small debt of £20 owing by the Union to its Treasurer, and drew forth a pledge from the meeting that they should not go away in debt.

Mr RICHARDSON came forward, and suggested that a subscription should be immediately commenced to defray the debt, and handed in one sovereign as his contribution.

This was followed by several others from different parties in the meeting, and these, together with £5 promised from Liverpool, and £5 for the rest of Lancashire by the representatives present, made up more than the requisite sum.

A collection was also made in addition, towards defraying the general expenses of the Union for the ensuing year.

After some further proceedings, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting separated at about ten o'clock.

BIRTHS.

May 22, at Oldswinford, Stourbridge, the wife of Mr JAMES RICHARDS, minister, of a daughter.

May 30, at Frogmarsh house, Woodchester, Stroud, Mrs A. M. FLINT, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

May 27, at Brook street chapel, Warwick, by the father of the bride, Mr JOSEPH SMEATON, draper, Leamington, to ELIZABETH CATHERINE, second daughter of Mr J. W. PERCY, Warwick.

May 28, at Erdington, Norfolk, Mr T. F. DICKINSON, custom house, Liverpool, to MARGARET, only daughter of Mr JOHN STEWART, rector of Thwaite, All Saints.

May 29, by license, at the Weigh-house chapel, London, by Mr John Young, A.M., minister of Albion chapel, Mr JACOB UNWIN, of Bucklersbury, ISABEL, third daughter of the late Mr Thomas HALL, of Bishopsgate street.

May 29, at Castle square chapel, Wisbech, by Mr W. Holmes, Mr JOHN REAM to Miss MARY FOSBROOK WOODWARD, both of Wisbech, St Peter's.

May 29, at the Independent chapel, Welford, Northamptonshire, by the minister, Mr Benjamin Hobson, Mr JOSEPH BURMAN EKINGTON, to MARY ANN, third daughter of the late Mr Jonathan CAVE, of South Kilworth, Leicestershire.

May 29, at Union chapel, Shefford, Beds, Mr THOMAS ODDELL, of Castle Donington, minister, to Miss BRYANT, of Little Hardwick, near Shefford.

May 29, at Norley Street chapel, Plymouth, by Mr T. C. Hine, Independent minister, Mr WILLIAM EVANS, draper, of East Stonehouse, to RACHEL MARY, only daughter of Mr William RICHARDS, Independent minister, of Plymouth.

DEATHS.

April 24, near Skaneateles, in the United States, aged 83, Mr JAMES JAY, Wesleyan minister, formerly of Banwell Marsh, Somersetshire, and believed to be the last surviving co-labourer with the eminent John Wesley.

May 24, after a long and protracted illness, EVAN KINSEY, the youngest son of Mr David EVANS, Independent minister, Llanidloes.

May 26, at Liverpool, aged eighty-one years, JOHN JOB, Esq., many years a deacon of the Independent church meeting in Great George street chapel.

May 26, Mr GEORGE M' TURK, of South Cave, at the advanced age of ninety-four. He was for nearly half a century the consistent and unwearied supporter of the Independent cause in that town.

May 29, in the faith of the gospel, HANNAH ROSE, wife of Mr W. H. MILLAR, Cowley road, Brixton road, aged 41.

May 30, Mrs SELBIE, wife of Mr W. Selbie, minister, late of Great Thurlow, Suffolk, now of Great Howard, Bucks, after a long and painful illness.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, May 30.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 Will. IV, cap. 85:—

Brunswick chapel, Milton street, Marylebone.

Jabes chapel, Dyffrynwau, Pembrokeshire.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.

HARRIS, SAMUEL, and BEEVE, DANIEL, 124, Minories, City, linen drapers.

BANKRUPTS.

M'ALPINE, WILLIAM, Liverpool, tailor, June 13, July 11: solicitors, Messrs Francis and Almond, Liverpool, and Messrs Bridger and Blake, London Wall, London.

SEARLE, FRANCIS WILLIAM, late of 9, Upper Gloucester place, now of Adelaide terrace, Chelsea, cheesemonger, June 6, July 7: solicitor, Mr John Townsend, Hollland street, Fitzroy square.

WENMAN, THOMAS, now or late of Birmingham, merchant, June 10, July 8: solicitors, Messrs Tyndal and Sons, Birmingham, and Messrs Rowland and Co., Threadneedle street, London.

DIVIDENDS.

R. K. MANN, Kingston-upon-Hull, wine merchant; first div. of 6s. 8d., any Tuesday—C. J. Mathews, Westbourne green, Harrow road, comedian; first div. of 1s. 8d., June 4, and two following Wednesdays—W. B. Brand, Little Stanhope street, Mayfair, cook; first div. of 9d., any Wednesday within three months—E. Holmes, King street, Cheapside, warehouseman; second div. of 1d., any Wednesday within three months—G. Croxton, Manchester, glass dealer; first div. of 8s., any Wednesday—J. Thorpe, Manchester, merchant; first and final div. of 7s-16ths of a penny, any Wednesday—C. J. Banister, Derby, linen draper; final div. of 1s. 4d., any Saturday—T. Weddell, Bacchus walk, Hoxton, accountant; final div. of 3s. 6d., any Saturday—W. Dettmed, Upper Marylebone street, pianoforte manufacturer; first div. of 6s., any Wednesday within three months—W. and R. Smith, Bow lane, Cheapside, and of Aberdeen, warehousemen; first div. of 1s. 6d.; on the separate estate of R. Smith, a div. of 20s.; and on the separate estate of W. Smith, first div. of 10s., any Wednesday within three months—J. B. Williams, Regent street, stationer; first div. of 4s. 6d., any Wednesday within three months—T. Sherwood, Tilehurst, Berkshire, brick maker; second div. of 5d., any Wednesday within three months—J. Palmer, Lynn, Norfolk, draper; second div. of 5d., any Wednesday within three months.

Tuesday, June 3.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7, Wm IV, cap. 85.

Penuel Welsh Baptist chapel, Rhymney, Monmouthshire.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

COOKE, THOMAS, Leicester, glove manufacturer.

SCHOLES, GEORGE BARLOW, Lostock hall, Lancashire, muslin manufacturer.

BANKRUPTS.

ASTLE, WILLIAM, Wolverhampton, plumber, June 13, July 10: solicitors, Mr T. Walker, Wolverhampton; Messrs Capea and Stuart, Gray's inn, London.

BRADLY, JOHN FENN, and BRADLY, GEORGE JAMES, Great St Helens, City, wine merchants, June 13, July 15: solicitors, Messrs Harrison, Walbrook.

CHURCH, FRANCIS HARRINGTON, Southampton, surgeon, June 10, July 9: solicitor, Mr W. C. C. Humphreys, 67, Newgate street.

CLARKSON, WILLIAM, Redcross street, City, boot and shoe manufacturer, June 17, July 15: solicitor, Mr Henry Llewellyn, 29, Noble street, Cheapside.

DEMPSEY, JOHN CHURCH, Bristol, stationer, June 17, July 15: solicitors, Messrs Galsworthy and Co., Cook's court, London; and Mr W. G. Gray, Bristol.

FAWORTH, STEPHEN, 68, Chiswell street, linen draper, June 17, July 11: solicitor, Mr Fawcett, 44, Jewin street, Cripplegate, and Hockley, Essex.

MATTHEWS, WILLIAM, 42, Lissom grove north, Marylebone, pianoforte maker, June 12, July 18: solicitor, Mr Weightman, 1, Warwick court, Gray's inn.

MOHON, JOHN, and SIMONS, RICHARD, 27, Mincing lane, City, wine merchants, June 16, July 14: solicitor, Mr James Bowen May 13, Queen's square, Bloomsbury.

PEARSON, LAZENBY, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, currier, June 11, July 15: solicitors, Messrs Williamson and Hill, Gray's inn, London; and Mr Henry Inglefield, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

PITT, JOHN, Plymouth, grocer, June 12, July 17: solicitors, Mr H. H. Cross, Plymouth; Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London; and Mr John Terrell, Exeter.

YATES, JOHN, Guernsey, and of 22, York road, Lambeth, ship owner, June 18, July 7: solicitors, Messrs Wood and Wickham, Corbet court, Gracechurch street.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

BURNSIDE, JOHN, Glasgow, bootmaker, June 10, July 2.

DIVIDENDS.

G. E. WHITE, Reading, Berkshire, tailor, first div. of 5s., any Wednesday—H. and A. WOOD, Basinghall street, City, Blackhall factors, third div. of 4d. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. Johnson, Anston, Yorkshire, miller, first and final div. of 1s. 5d., and to those who have received the former a final div. of 5d., any day—W. Heginbottom, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, cotton spinner, final div. of 2d., and a first and final div. on new proofs of 2s. 8d., any Tuesday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

The funds are very buoyant, and prices are rapidly rising. The amount of business transacted has been considerable.

Wed. Thur. Fri. Sat. Mon. Tues.

3 per cent. Consols	99 <i>1</i>	100				
Ditto for Account.	99 <i>1</i>	99 <i>1</i>	99 <i>1</i>	99 <i>1</i>	100	100 <i>1</i>
3 per cents Reduced	98 <i>1</i>	98 <i>1</i>	98 <i>1</i>	98 <i>1</i>	99	99
New 3 <i>1</i> per cent.	101 <i>1</i>	102				
Long Annuities	114 <i>1</i>					
Bank Stock	211	211	211	211	210 <i>1</i>	210 <i>1</i>
India Stock	280	280	280	280	279	279
Exchequer Bills	60pm	60pm	60pm	60pm	62pm	62pm
India Bonds	70pm	70pm	70pm	70pm	72pm	72pm

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	—	Mexican	37 <i>1</i>
Belgian	99	Peruvian	31
Brazilian	89 <i>1</i>	Portuguese 5 per cents	—
Buenos Ayres	42	Ditto converted	66 <i>1</i>
Columbian	154	Russian	11 <i>1</i>
Danish	88	Spanish Active	30 <i>1</i>
Dutch 2 <i>1</i> per cents	63 <i>1</i>	Ditto Passive	8
Ditto 4 per cents	98 <i>1</i>	Ditto Deferred	17 <i>1</i>

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	—	London & Birm. J. Shares	25
Birmingham & Gloucester	137	London and Brighton	66
Blackwall	9 <i>1</i>	London & Croydon Trunk	18 <i>1</i>
Bristol and Exeter	83	London and Greenwich	11
Chester and Gt. Western	18 <i>1</i>	Ditto New	24 <i>1</i>
Eastern Counties	18 <i>1</i>	Manchester and Leeds	150
Edinburgh and Glasgow	66	Midland Counties	188
Grand Junction	—	Ditto New Shares	27
Great North of England	25 <i>1</i>	Midland and Derby	150
Great Western	20 <i>1</i>	Ditto New	44
Ditto Half	11 <i>1</i>	South Eastern and Dover	44
Ditto Fifths	45	South Western	80 <i>1</i>
London and Birmingham	250	Ditto New	13 <i>1</i>

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, June 2.

There was a fair show of wheat, and the demand being, in consequence of the favourable change in the weather, exceedingly slow, the late advance could not be maintained. Even the finest qualities sold at 1s. per quarter less than on this day se'nnight, and the decline in other descriptions amounted to 1s. to 2s. per quarter.

The little barley offering was held

Just published, in royal 18mo, price 3s. 6d.,
VIEWS of the VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE,
in Four Series; showing its Nature and Intrinsic Excellence—its Adaptation to Man as an Individual—its Harmony with his Social Nature and Position—and its Accordance with the Genius of Christianity. By EDWARD MIALL.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

"We are glad to see these excellent papers, on a most important subject, collected in the form of a volume; and we think them well worth the careful perusal both of the friends of the voluntary system, and of its fair and candid opponents, or those who doubt its efficacy. They will find the arguments on the subject set in a clear light, and the author's manner of treating it will scarcely fail to arrest their attention."—*Inquirer.*

The work altogether is a reprint of articles which have appeared in the *Nonconformist* newspaper, conducted with so much fine principle and spirit by the author. To those who know anything of the paper it will be unnecessary to say that the "Views" are expressed in nervous language, and so as to offend none, except, perhaps, those who cannot refute them, and have resolved, apart altogether from their truth or erroneousness, to repress them. Mr Miall is one of the most vigorous writers of the day; it is fortunate that he devotes his great talents to the public service in so disinterested a way as he does. —*Economist.*

"The little volume before us is a book, if not the book, for the Times: it views the subject all round, and penetrates through it; it is marked by earnestness, and a purpose, and should be in the hands of all who would take part in the great and glorious struggle for the True and the Right."—*Oxford Chronicle.*

"This work is destined to take its stand in the ranks of our literature as the most perfect illustration and defence of the voluntary principle extant. No Dissenter in the kingdom should fail to possess himself of this admirable elucidation of the principles of Nonconformity. It deserves a place in every library, not only as a genuine embodiment of the principles of Dissent, but as a work of great literary merit and mental acumen."—*Leicester Mercury.*

"The articles are written with great vigour, and the reasoning, generally speaking, is cogent and conclusive. Some of the pieces are written in a most fascinating style The author has secured for himself a first place among the standard writers of the day; and the volume before us will perpetuate his fame as long as aught remains in man of a lofty independence and a love of the just and the true."—*Glasgow Examiner.*

Also, by the same Author, demy 12mo, bound in cloth, 3s. 6d.

The NONCONFORMIST'S SKETCH-BOOK;
a Series of Views of a State-church and its attendant Evils.

London: AYLOTT and JONES, Paternoster row. Orders received by all Booksellers.

Just published, price 3s. 6d.,

OUR ERA: a Soliloquy—Social, Political, Religious. With Miscellaneous Pieces. By W. LEASK.

"It contains sentiments that mark him as the philanthropist, the patriot, and the Christian."—*Dover Chronicle.*

"Incomparably the best of his poetic compositions. The sentiments are sound and salutary; the illustrations are felicitous, and the language is chaste, elegant, and flowing. May it command a speedy and extensive sale."—*Christian Examiner.*

JACKSON and WALFORD, St Paul's Churchyard.

Medium octavo, in arabesque binding, price 10s. 6d.

WALKS ABOUT THE CITY AND ENVIRONS OF JERUSALEM. By W. H. BARTLETT. Illustrated by Nine Engravings on Steel, by Cousen, Bentley, and Brandard; Map; and nearly Forty superior Woodcuts.

The object of this Work is to give a correct idea of the present state of this memorable city, from personal observation. The "Walks" embrace the principal objects of interest; many of which have not been drawn or described in any previous publication; and the ancient city is illustrated in a brief essay, with a view of it, as besieged by Titus, drawn up from careful investigation, and beautifully printed in the tinted style by the new patent process.

The Thirtieth Thousand.

FAMILY WORSHIP.—A GUIDE to FAMILY DEVOTION. by the REV. A. FLETCHER, A.M., of Finsbury Chapel, London. Price £1 6s. handsomely bound in cloth, with gilt edges. This work comprises a Hymn, and a Portion of Scripture with suitable Reflections, and Devotional Exercises; presenting an entire course of Family Worship for both the Morning and Evening of every day throughout the Year.

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N.B. The July Supplement will contain a thorough exposure of Dr Campbell's Attack on Teetotalism.

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8. Progress of Tractarianism.
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10. Prospects of the Country.

Edinburgh: W. P. KENNEDY. London: HAMILTON, ADAMS, and Co. Dublin: W. CURRY, jun., and Co.

Just published, price 2s. 6d.

THE ECLECTIC REVIEW for JUNE.—

CONTENTS:

1. The Epistle to the Philippians.
2. The Collegian's Guide.
3. Christian Union.
4. Society of Friends—American Indians.
5. History of the Secession Church.
6. Romantic Adventures of Monsieur Violet.
7. Scott's Congregational Lecture—Second Edition.
8. The Maynooth Bill—Conduct and Duty of Dissenters, &c.

Ward and Co., 27, Paternoster row.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

This day, price Twopence,
MINUTES of the FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION, held at the Guildhall Coffee-house, on Tuesday, May 6, 1845.

Also, price Twopence each,
RELIGIOUS ESTABLISHMENTS INCOMPATIBLE with the RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP. By EDWARD MIALL.

STATE CHURCHES not CHURCHES of CHRIST. By EDWARD SMITH PRYCE, B.A. (See nd Prize Essay).

London: 5, Aldine chambers, Paternoster row.

MAYNOOTH ENDOWMENT.—CONFERENCE OF PROTESTANT DISSENTERS.

AT a MEETING of the COMMITTEE appointed by the CONFERENCE of PROTESTANT DISSENTERS, to protest against the Maynooth Grant, and all other state endowments of religion, held on MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1845, the following resolutions were adopted:—

1. That this Committee would respectfully remind the gentlemen who recently met in Conference, the religious communities they represented, and the general body of Protestant Dissenters, of the strong and earnest recommendation issued by that Body to the "Dissenters of the United Kingdom, to memorialise the Queen forthwith, praying her Majesty to afford her subjects a constitutional opportunity of expressing their opinion on the pending measure, by dissolving the present parliament;" and, in accordance with this recommendation, the Committee would urge the duty of immediately carrying this resolution into effect.

2. That as, in the judgment of this Committee, it is highly important that Protestant Dissenters should guard against any compromise of their distinctive principles, and that the true ground of their opposition to this measure should be unequivocally explained to her Majesty, the Parliament, and the community at large, the Committee take leave to submit, as a form for general adoption, the following draft of a Memorial to the Queen, unanimously approved by the recent Conference:—

"We, your Majesty's subjects, being Protestant Dissenters in Conference assembled from all parts of the United Kingdom, humbly approach your Majesty to present our Memorial and Petition. We have witnessed with alarm the introduction to the legislature, by your Majesty's advisers, of a bill for the permanent endowment of Maynooth College—a measure to which we conscientiously object, on the ground of our deliberate conviction, that all state endowments of religion are dangerous to the liberty of the subject, subversive of the rights of conscience, opposed to the spirit of Christianity, and offensive to God. We beg humbly to represent to your Majesty, that this measure is being pressed through Parliament, in opposition to the sentiments and feelings, unequivocally and constitutionally declared, of the British people. We, therefore, humbly, but earnestly, implore your Majesty to interpose your Royal prerogative, and, by an appeal to your people, to afford them an opportunity of expressing their sense of the new course of policy upon which your Majesty's ministers have entered."

3. That, till the Maynooth College bill be finally disposed of, this Committee will continue to meet daily, at 27, Paternoster row, London; and will give their earnest and strenuous co-operation to the friends of Religious Freedom throughout the kingdom, in carrying out the Resolutions of the Conference.

JAMES CARLILE, Hon. Sec.

Committee room, 27, Paternoster row, June 2, 1845.

P.S. Our communications may be addressed as above, and also contributions to meet the incidental expenses.

MAYNOOTH COLLEGE ENDOWMENT

BILL.—At a Meeting of the Deputies of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters—Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist—in and within twelve miles of London, appointed to protect their civil rights, held the 28th day of May, 1845, at the King's Head Tavern, in the Poultry—

JOHN REMINGTON MILLS, Esq., in the Chair—

It was resolved—

That a petition from this Deputation against the Maynooth Endowment Bill be presented to the House of Lords.

That this Deputation has learned with profound regret that the House of Commons, in utter disregard of the loudly declared disapprobation of the country in condemnation of the measure, has passed the bill for the Endowment of the Roman Catholic College of Maynooth. That this event has clearly demonstrated, that the present House does not represent the sentiments of the country; it is, therefore, the opinion of this Deputation, that a Memorial be prepared and addressed to her most gracious Majesty, imploring her, before giving her consent to the Maynooth Endowment bill, to give her Majesty's loyal subjects an opportunity, by a dissolution of the Parliament, of expressing their deliberate judgment upon the new and dangerous line of policy adopted by her Majesty's present ministers.

That the Committee be requested to prepare such memorial, and that, when prepared, it be signed by Protestant Dissenters of the three denominations in and within twelve miles of London.

(Signed)

J. R. MILLS, Chairman.

IRISH and ENGLISH REGIUM DONUM.—

At a MEETING of the DEPUTIES of the Three Denominations of Protestant Dissenters—Presbyterian, Independent, and Baptist—in and within twelve miles of London, appointed to protect their civil rights, held the 28th day of May, 1845, at the King's Head Tavern, in the Poultry—

JOHN REMINGTON MILLS, Esq., in the Chair—

It was resolved—

That the Deputation conscientiously object to all State endowments and Parliamentary grants for the support of the ministers of religion, or religious institutions, as being contrary to the principles of Christianity and foreign to the legitimate object of civil government.

That this Deputation has formally petitioned the House of Commons against all grants of public money for such purposes, and also against the grant annually made by Parliament, called the *Regium Donum*, for providing stipends for a portion of the Presbyterian ministers in Ireland, as well as against the small grant annually voted by Parliament for charitable distribution among Protestant Dissenting Ministers in England.

That this Deputation earnestly renewes its protests against the principle involved in all such grants, and that a petition, praying that the grant called the *Regium Donum* in Ireland, and the grant for Protestant Dissenting Ministers in England, may be discontinued, be signed by the Deputies, and presented to the House of Commons by Charles Hindley, Esq.

(Signed)

J. R. MILLS, Chairman.

EASE in WALKING and COMFORT to the FEET.—Wellington street, Strand, London.—HALL and CO., SOLE PATENTEES of the PANNUS CORIUM, or Leather Cloth Boots and Shoes for Ladies and Gentlemen.—These articles have borne the test and received the approbation of all who have worn them. Such as are troubled with Corns, Bunions, Gout, Chilblains, or tenderness of Feet from any other cause, will find them the softest and most comfortable ever invented—they never draw the feet or get hairy, are very durable, and adapted for every climate; they resemble the finest leather, and are cleaned with common blacking.

The Patent India Rubber Goshoses are light, durable, elastic, and waterproof; they thoroughly protect the feet from damp or cold.

Hall and Co's Portable Waterproof Dresses for Ladies and Gentlemen. This desirable article claims the attention of all who are exposed to the wet. Ladies' Cardinal Cloaks, with Hoods, 18s. Gentlemen's Dresses, comprising Cape, Overalls, and Hood, 21s. The whole can be carried with convenience in the pocket.

N.B.—Hall and Co. particularly invite attention to their Elastic Boots, which are much approved; they supersede lacing or buttoning: are drawn on in an instant, and are a great support to the ankle.

TO DECORATORS, GRAINERS, PAINTERS, PAPER STAINERS, ARTISTS, AND OTHERS.

STEPHEN'S PREPARED IMITATION WOOD COLOURS.—

The want of a uniform system of preparing colours for imitating wood in painting, in which a correct shade and tone of colour are equally important with skillful execution on the part of the operator, is often productive of serious inconvenience to the workman. Accustomed to mix on the spot various proportions of different colours, and using them when the eye has approved of the mixture, he is subjected to delay and the inconvenience of repeated trials, in order to match the colour, should he not have mixed sufficient to finish his work, or should he be desirous of imitating it correctly at any subsequent period. To relieve this inconvenience, the inventor has prepared Imitation Wood Colours upon such exact principles that the operator will be able to obtain correct imitations at once, prepared to his hand, thus saving time and preventing uncertainty. These colours have also the advantage of a finer and more natural appearance, are perfectly free from gritty particles, and work more smoothly and more pleasantly than any of the colours now in use, thereby effecting a saving in time and labour, and producing a more beautiful and perfect imitation of the ornamental woods than can be obtained by any of the crude colours which workmen are in the habit of using.

N.B. The above colours are prepared both in a dry and damp state. The Damp Colours are convenient for immediately mixing without grinding, for Paper Staining, and graining in Distemper. Damp Colours sold in pots, 6d., 1s., and 2s. each. Dry Colours sold in Packets at 6d., 1s., and 2s.

As a valuable adjunct to the above,

STEPHEN'S NEUTRAL WHITE will be found a very superior article for mixing with fine Colours, as its chemical nature is not incompatible with any colour, and it also works smoother and better than any of the Whites commonly used for such purposes. Also,

STEPHEN'S LIQUID OAK, MAHOGANY, and ROSE, and SATIN WOOD STAINS, For reviving the faded appearance of old Carvings and Furniture, and also for Staining and Colouring Soft Woods, Composition, Paper, Leather, &c., so as to imitate the colours and appearance of Oak, Mahogany, &c., &c.

Prepared and Sold by HENRY STEPHENS, 54, Stamford street, Blackfriars road. Sold, also, by appointment, at E. M. Nash's, 47, Marshall street, Golden square.

Specimens of the applications of the above articles may be seen at either of the places above-named.

ELECTRO-SILVERED DEANEAN PLATE.

—This beautiful manufacture possesses advantages which no other description of plated goods can offer. The union of the silver with its base being perfect, they constitute together but one body; and the silvery whiteness of the Deanean Plate renders the disappearance of the electro coating, after long time and constant use, scarcely observable. G. and J. DEANE have just completed a very choice collection of Electro-silvered Deanean articles, comprising table and dessert spoons and forks, tea and gravy spoons, soup and sauce ladles, table and chamber candlesticks, sets of cruets and liqueurs, tea and coffee sets, and every other description of goods ordinarily manufactured in silver.

GEORGE and JOHN DEANE'S improved COOKING STOVE is in daily operation in the stove and fender department of their furnishing show rooms. It exhibits the latest improvements, and is constructed of the most durable materials and in the most workman-like manner; the whole is the result of many years' experience and a constant and extensive observation. G. and J. Deane's Cooking Stove has been introduced into the culinary department of the Magdalene Hospital, and the New Hummums Hotel, Covent-garden, where, as well as in many other public establishments, it gives the most unqualified satisfaction. George and John Deane's warehouse, show rooms, and manufactory, 46, King William street, London bridge.

WAREHOUSE FOR BELL-CRANKS, KEYS, GAS-FITTINGS, AND GENERAL BRASS FOUNDRY,

No. 13, PANCRAS LANE, QUEEN STREET, CHEAPSEIDE, LONDON.

JAMES ARTHUR MILES respectfully calls the attention of Ironmongers, Smiths, and Gas Fitters to his Stock of the Articles mentioned above, comprising a greater variety in each department than has hitherto been kept, and in quantities suited to the wholesale trade.

Models of the following Patent articles may be examined at the Warehouse, and of which a stock is kept:—

Smith's Patent Night Bolts, Alarm Triggers for Doors and Windows, and Alarms; Porter Latches and Water Closet Triggers; Stewart's Patent Castors and Elastic Hinges; and Bynner's Patent Economic Gas Burner